

NEWS: INTERNATIONAL

Kinnock says EU air fares are too high

By Michael Skapinker

European airlines are charging too much for tickets and subjecting passengers to unacceptable delays, Mr Neil Kinnock, EU transport commissioner, said yesterday.

He told the Air Transport Users Council in London that he had asked his officials to prepare a report by the end of the year on what new routes had been opened and whether fares had been lowered. If, as he expected, the results were disappointing, he

would ask Mr Karel Van Miert, the competition commissioner, to join him in formulating new proposals to obtain a better deal for consumers.

Mr Kinnock said airlines were not using fully the opportunities offered by the Union's third package of liberalisation measures. These give EU airlines access to virtually all international routes within the Union and allow carriers to charge whatever fares they wish.

He said: "Apart from journeys on the very busiest routes and the simplest

of point to point flights, fares are still at levels which are considerably above what could reasonably be justified by competitive cost levels. Fare structures also remain complex and difficult for the consumer to understand."

The commissioner added that airlines did not do enough to differentiate themselves from one another. The only differentiation appeared to be between first, business and economy class within each airline.

He also said that airline delays were

increasing to the point where travellers had come to regard them as a normal part of air travel. "Consumers who might riot if their huses and trains were repeatedly and seriously late are now conditioned to accept the chronic delays in air travel with little more than irritated resignation," Mr Kinnock said.

He repeated his opposition to EU members negotiating bilateral aviation agreements with the US, saying these were not in the interests of the countries involved or consumers.

The European Court of Justice had held that external agreements which had an impact on the single market were matters of exclusive competence for the Commission, he added.

Failure to take legal action against countries which negotiated bilateral agreements would undermine the EU. "While legal action will be taken," he said, "it's not being taken for reasons of self-importance or self-righteousness. It's being taken because the integrity of the Community and of the law is at stake."

Spanish bank boosts main interest rate

By David White in Madrid

The Bank of Spain issued a strong warning about inflation yesterday as it lifted its benchmark interest rate by 0.75 percentage points to 9.25 per cent, the highest level since 1983.

It was the third increase since the beginning of the year when the rate stood at 7.35 per cent after two years of successive reductions.

A further rate rise had been widely anticipated, although the general expectation was for a half-point rise. The government was also hoping that the central bank, which now has independent status, would wait until the announcement of May inflation figures later this month before making its move.

A decision by the bank was put off late last month in the run-up to regional and municipal elections.

The increase in the official benchmark rate at yesterday's 10-day Treasury bill repurchase tender was immediately followed by similar rises in commercial banks' prime lending rates. The Bank of Spain said the move was "preventive" and designed to forestall a further worsening of the price outlook and to encourage sustained economic growth.

The decision came after an acceleration in consumer price inflation to 5.2 per cent in the 12 months to April, up from 4.3 per cent at the end of last year.

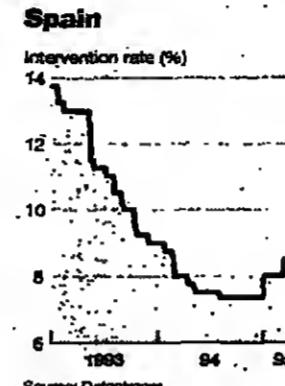
The bank warned that there were signs of "a significant deterioration" in inflation and that the blame could not be

placed exclusively on temporary factors or disturbances in supply of items such as certain basic foodstuffs.

"There is a risk of inflation deviating from the path required for medium-term convergence targets," the bank said. It warned that factory gate prices had been accelerating since last summer and prices of services had recently joined the trend.

The change was well received by financial markets, where an interest rate rise had already been discounted, although there was doubt about the timing.

"It has even introduced a bit of calm," said Mr Henrik Lundholm, Bank of America's chief economist in Spain. "It would not have helped if the bank



Now showing: Attack of the Politicians

In the film *True Lies*, Arnold Schwarzenegger moves down villas by the dozen, lots of them from a Harrier jet to which his wife, played by Jamie Lee Curtis, intermittently clings, appropriately destabilized.

When Senator Bob Dole, the majority leader and favourite for the Republican presidential nomination, took off on Hollywood sex and violence this week, he cited *True Lies* as the sort of enjoyable action movie the film industry should be making.

But Oliver Stone, the director engrossed by the senator, was quick to point something else out: Mr Schwarzenegger may have married into a Democratic family, the Shriver, and he is a card-carrying Republican and former head of President George Bush's physical fitness council. So too, according to their fundraising activities, are Bruce Willis and Sylvester Stallone, whose blood and guts films also mysteriously escaped Mr Dole's critical attention.

The majority leader's political intent, of course, is without mystery. Cultural conservatism, whether purveyed by the religious right or intellectuals like Bill Bennett, former education secretary, is the driving force of the Republican party, and perhaps more of the nation. It is a bus on which the previously pragmatic Mr Dole must jump in order to become the party nominee on his road to the White House.

Historically, he leaves himself open to charges of hypocrisy and opportunism. A New York Times editorial yesterday accused him of "blatant political jockeying" and said that if he was serious about reducing violence his support for repeal of the ban on assault weapons is "hardly the place to start".

But his onslaught also highlights yet again the ambivalent relationship between Hollywood and politics, an on-and-off love affair that dates back all the way to the silent movie era.

Charlie Chaplin was among the first to feel the anti-communist lash of J Edgar Hoover's FBI and was eventually driven into exile in Switzerland. The later blacklisting of actors, directors and screenwriters was among the most savage witch-hunts of the McCarthy era.

But Hollywood's presumed liberal soul rose again when Mr Dole became president, as Frank Sinatra, Peter Lawford and the rest of the original "ratpack" were persona grata

in more than the Oval Office of the White House. In 1973 stars like Shirley MacLaine and her brother, Warren Beatty, rallied to the anti-war cause of George McGovern.

But Sinatra's political allegiances were less constant than his voice in its prime. In 1972 he came out of his first retirement to sing at a Chicago rally for vice-president Spiro Agnew. In the 1980s Ronald Reagan, the first actor-president, blessed him with the Medal of Freedom, the highest US civil honour.

The Clinton presidency again revived the liberal connection, through mediums like Barbara Streisand, the singer, and Harry Thomasson and his wife, Linda Bloodworth-Thomasson, the successful TV directors. Some of the president's most rewarding fund-raisers have taken place in Hollywood.

The film industry's

old view of Washington

has also wavered –

between quirky romanticism

from Mr Smith Goes to Washington in the 1930s to *Dawn in 1939* in 1993, cold war realism, with the president preferably played by Henry Fonda, and outright cynicism about the political process, as in *The Manchurian Candidate*. All the President's Men and, most recently, John Grisham's *The Pelican Brief*. Oliver Stone's conspiracy theories – *JFK* – are a category of their own.

History has made Hollywood

sensitive to political criticism.

It feels especially aggrieved

now because it is the country's

second largest export earner

(after aircraft) with foreign

demand far stronger than for

family entertainment. Rather

than undermine national

morale, as Mr Dole says, it

believes it provides more new

jobs than any other sector.

But history suggests some

thing else: that, under pres-

sure, Hollywood's principles,

whatever they may be, can

bend as much as Washington's. Shocking steps forward – Clark Gable not wearing a vest in *It Happened One Night* – have often been followed by a retreat – in the face of Joe McCarthy's anti-communist

witch-hunts and again in the

1980s in the adoption of vig-

orously restricted warnings of

the content of TV movies.

Anyway, some people think

Arnold Schwarzenegger plans

a political career. Bob Dole

would have nothing but a ter-

rible senator.

Jurek Martin

Paris prepares plans for new mobile protection force in Bosnia

France hardens tone on hostages

By David Buchan in Paris

France's political and military leaders yesterday hardened their tone towards Bosnian Serbs holding United Nations peacekeepers hostage, while considering plans for a new mobile protection force to be put to defence ministers from 13 other countries at a meeting in Paris later today.

Warning that the latest news from Bosnia was not good, Mr Alain Juppé, prime minister, said: "The belligerents [there] are becoming more and more hardline." He could not, therefore, rule out eventual withdrawal of French forces. But for the moment France was pressing ahead with plans for what he insisted would "not be an aggressive force, but a force to protect" UN peacekeepers.

President Jacques Chirac set the toughest rhetorical line on Thursday when, at the funeral of two French soldiers killed in Bosnia, he warned that France would not let attacks go unpunished. Mr Juppé yesterday dismissed a warning by Mr Radovan Karadžić, the Bosnian Serb leader, that attempts to free the UN hostages had been blocked since May 26.

The Serbs moved in behind a group of UN military observers, already taken

hostage, who had been told to tell the French an attack was imminent, he said. "It apparently was a deception, a ruse, and we are worried because the Serbs now have another group of our men hostage," said Lt-Gen Dubois.

More than 160 French UN peacekeeping troops have now been blocked or detained as hostages by Bosnian Serbs in the Sarajevo area.

report yesterday, but said there was now "very broad agreement" among the French leadership on the new tougher policy.

Meanwhile, Mr Charles Lanxade, chief of the defence staff, said to radio yesterday that French forces had been instructed "to resist any new aggression". The admiral is reported to have been so stung by Mr Chirac's criticism of the "laxity" of past French operations in Bosnia that he offered his resignation a week ago. He refused to comment on the

French defence official

stressed France's desire to have "a force that is militarily effective, but which respects UN mandates". There is some fear in Paris that the UK might weaken "the deterrent effect" of the new rapid protection force by keeping its own reinforcements under national command.

In the weeks since becoming president, Mr Chirac, who has been a reserve colonel in a tank regiment, has taken direct charge of French policy in Bosnia, to the extent of telephoning French commanders in Sarajevo and guarantee access to Moslem enclaves in Serb-held territory.

At a meeting on May 26,

according to French press reports, the president complained sharply about the way French peacekeepers had been left "isolated and exposed" to hostage-taking and reprisals, in criticism which Admiral Lanxade took personally.

Mr Juppé, who was foreign minister in the previous government, is reported to have intervened to remind the president that defence chiefs had many times taken up his points with the UN authorities, but to no avail. Mr Milon was also said to have intervened to ease the tension between the president and the admiral.

French premier Alain Juppé at a Paris press conference yesterday. Latest Bosnia news was not good, be warned.

He leaves himself open to charges of hypocrisy and opportunism. A New York Times editorial yesterday accused him of "blatant political jockeying" and said that if he was serious about reducing violence his support for repeal of the ban on assault weapons is "hardly the place to start".

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German budget approved after voting controversy

By Judy Dempsey in Berlin

The German parliament yesterday approved this year's long-awaited budget, but not before a controversy involving a deputy of the governing CDU party who had been seen casting two extra voting slips.

The federal budget, which

entails increasing spending by 1.3 per cent and a DM1bn (\$70m) cut in the deficit, was passed by 340 to 307 votes.

It paves the way for Mr Theo Waigel, finance minister, to focus on next year's budget as well as the second phase of tax reforms.

The reforms are due to be introduced in 1996, but some have already been rejected by the Bundestag and criticised

by the Bundesrat (upper house), which is dominated by the opposition Social Democrats (SPD).

This year's federal budget will have a deficit of DM477.8bn, DM6.4bn more than the previous year. The volume of public debt, which the SPD in the Bundesrat had criticised, will this year reach DM1,850bn, or 56 per cent of GDP.

The reforms are due to be introduced in 1996, but some have already been rejected by the Bundestag and criticised

by the SPD. Encouraged by President Soleyman Demirel, a former DYP leader, they are openly agitating against her leadership.

Luckily, many of the small towns holding elections are traditional DYP strongholds and Mrs Ciller is proving an effective campaigner. She is visiting the voters and mar-

shalling her considerable powers of patronage on their behalf. For instance, she promised to donate two cows to each household in one small town outside Istanbul. In another small town, Mrs Ciller promised voters that the government would set up a university.

She is also aggressively defending her record as prime minister. Although economic performance has been poor with GDP falling 6 per cent last year and inflation currently at 9.4 per cent, her hardline stance against guerrillas of the Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK) is popular. In a speech in the town of Afyon yesterday, she said the elections "will show

whether you are with me in this national struggle" against the PPK.

However, the army's incursion into northern Iraq in March has aroused opposition in Europe to closer links, jeopardising one of the main aims of Turkish foreign policy. The European parliament has found that greater respect for human rights in Turkey is among its main conditions for ratifying a customs union treaty this autumn.

Although polls indicate that two-thirds of the electorate supports closer ties with Europe, Mrs Ciller has been unable to pursue reform in the face of stubborn opposition from the conservative and

nationalist hard core in the True Path and the opposition.

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Defending human rights and democracy is becoming equated in Turkish minds less with European values than with support for Kurdish separatism and bowing to the demands of arrogant European politicians.

The strike is a politically motivated protest against its economic reforms, ironically, popular enough with oilworkers has probably increased congressional backing for one of the most important reforms, the ending of the oil monopoly for state-controlled Petrobras.

The strike caused queues several miles long outside gas depots and severe traffic jams in cities such as São Paulo.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS DIGEST

Italian pension deal supported

Members of Italy's three main union confederations have overwhelmingly endorsed pension reforms negotiated by their leaders with the government last month. With almost 8m members voting, 65 per cent were in favour and 35

NEWS: INTERNATIONAL

Kantor letter attempts to clarify position

US seeks double set of Japanese car talks

By Nancy Duane in Washington and Michio Nakamoto in Tokyo

The US yesterday agreed to meet Japanese officials in Geneva on June 12 and proposed a second meeting in Washington on June 20-21 in an effort to reach agreement in a dispute over access to the Japanese car and car parts market.

The US has threatened to impose punitive tariffs on \$2.9bn (£3.75bn) of Japanese luxury car imports if a deal is not reached by June 23.

US officials seem prepared to risk trading partners' condemnation by unilaterally imposing the sanctions, without the approval of the World Trade Organisation.

In a move designed to clarify the US position, Mr Mickey Kantor, US trade representative, yesterday took the unusual step of releasing both a public statement and a letter to Mr Ryutaro Hashimoto, Japan's trade minister, detailing US proposals for further talks.

The bilateral relationship has become so strained that US officials seem uncertain about what was agreed in a meeting earlier in the day between Mr Walter Mondale, US ambassador, and Mr Hashimoto.

The US believes Mr Hashimoto "indicated a willingness" to meet in Washington on June 20-21, but Mr Kantor's letter was written to confirm "the understanding".

Officials in Tokyo said an early date for talks was urgent as Japanese car companies were already suffering enormous damage as a result of the announced sanctions, which would be retroactive to May 20.

Japan argues that US proposals for a later meeting are a delaying tactic aimed at keeping the WTO debate as close as possible to the June 23 deadline.

In his letter, Mr Kantor recognised Japan's right, under WTO rules, to demand consultations in Geneva within 30 days of requesting them, which makes the deadline June 16. He



Ryutaro Hashimoto talks yesterday to reporters in Tokyo

REUTERS

War apology reflects political divide

A scramble to establish a stable party line-up looms, writes William Dawkins in Tokyo

Japan's ruling coalition last night failed to resolve a dispute over Japan's war record, which has highlighted national division and threatens to prompt yet another round of political realignment.

Mr Tomiichi Murayama, the prime minister, has stalled his future on asking the Japanese parliament to issue its first collective apology to countries which suffered under the imperial army during the second world war, to mark the 50th anniversary of Japan's surrender on August 15.

A number of recent prime ministers, including Mr Murayama, have expressed increasingly explicit personal remorse for Japan's wartime behaviour in Asia. But there has never been an apology on behalf of the nation, a reflection of deep divisions in society, both by age and political inclination, over whether the war is a matter for guilt or merely regret.

The older generation and right wing see the war as a legitimate attack against western colonialism, rather than aggression against Asian neighbours. That view has been uncomfortably highlighted by the dispute over Mr Murayama's proposed apology.

The row is giving unclear to foreign ministry officials, acutely sensitive to how this will affect neighbours' view of Japan.

Mr Murayama, chairman of the Social Democratic party, wants parliament to agree on an apology before the end of its current session on June 18. It does not meet again until after the surrender anniversary, when there will have been an

upper house election which could conceivably force Mr Murayama out of a job.

The pro-apologists include his own party, plus the left-leaning New Harbinger party, the smallest member of the three-party coalition, and a minority in the conservative Liberal Democratic party, senior coalition member.

Coalition partners last night postponed until next week a decision on the parliamentary apology, breaking their second self-imposed deadline in two days. They have been arguing over a parliamentary motion proposed by a committee of pro-apology members of both sides of parliament. It expresses remorse for acts of aggression and colonial rule.

The LDP leadership wants to express condolences for war dead and a desire for world peace, but to go no further. Many members of the New

Frontier party, the main opposition group, feel the same way. Coalition members appeared not to be able to agree on a compromise being brokered by Mr Yohhei Kono, the LDP president. It would take the form of a statement including the word *hansen*, meaning something between a recognition and remorse.

Neither the LDP nor the SDP wishes to face the consequences of a government collapse, said coalition officials. That would only expose an unresolved leadership struggle in the LDP - better worked out in private - and could spell a faster than planned end for the SDP. They are both uncomfortable with deep voter dissatisfaction with the warring political establishment.

The LDP leadership wants to express condolences for war dead and a desire for world peace, but to go no further. Many members of the New Frontier party are fighting demands to resign, both from a newly confident LDP and yesterday from Mr Wataru Kubo, his own party's second in command. The SDP "cannot remain at the helm of government" if it "loses voter confidence to a great extent" in the July poll, Mr Kubo said in a newspaper interview.

The LDP is in almost as much of a corner because it

needs to show respect to the War Bereaved Families' Association, an important constituency with more than 1m members. The war families have an influential chairman in the shape of Mr Ryutaro Hashimoto, minister of international trade and industry and the rising star of the right wing of the LDP, who has prime ministerial ambitions.

The backroom dealing needed to get agreement could, in encouraging fresh alliances between politicians unhappy with their existing parties, speed up the currently deadlocked realignment in Japanese politics, said political observers.

Over the past few months the LDP has started to form into three distinct groups - more policy-based than the old factions - around the right-wing Mr Hashimoto, the liberal Mr Kono, foreign minister, and a group of younger, reform-minded politicians called the YKK group, the initials of its three founders.

The SDP meanwhile, has just voted to disband itself and form a new party, though its name, policies and prospective date of birth are as yet unknown.

On the other side of the house, younger members of the opposition NFP have become disappointed with the six-month-old party's poor start and may be ready to bolt over the wartime apology or any of the numerous other opportunities that will emerge. Be prepared for another chaotic phase in Japan's scramble for a stable political line-up.

MURAYAMA REJECTS CALL TO QUIT

Mr Tomiichi Murayama, Japan's prime minister, yesterday brushed aside mounting calls for his resignation, both from the opposition and his own party, writes William Dawkins.

Mr Murayama, chairman of the Social Democratic party, reacted angrily to a suggestion by his own party's number two, Mr Wataru Kubo, that the SDP should leave the three-party coalition if it fares badly

as expected - in the upper house elections on July 23. Mr Kubo, secretary-general of the SDP, said he did not

believe that an overall coalition victory was necessarily a victory for the party and that the SDP could not remain in government if it fares badly in the poll.

"We are now doing our best to win the election. I don't think of resigning at all," Mr Murayama responded.

The row is the latest example of how disarray in the coalition is increasing in line with its declining popularity in the face of terrorism, rising unemployment, and other economic problems induced by a high yen.

Differences between the SDP and its coalition allies, the conservative Liberal Democratic party and the New Harbinger party, an LDP-splitter group, have been intensified by the early stages of a power struggle for the leadership of the next government.

Mr Murayama has faced several resignation calls recently from the opposition New Frontier party, which has capitalised on the government's perceived lack of urgency. Even senior members of the LDP have publicly dropped hints that he is preparing to go.

Public funds may ease banks' bad debts

By Emiko Terazono in Tokyo

Mr Masayoshi Takemura, the Japanese finance minister, yesterday indicated the possible use of public funds in the effort to dispose of mounting bad loans plaguing the country's banking industry.

Toyota said its Lexus luxury car division increased sales by 9 per cent, with its LS400 model posting a 71 per cent increase.

However, Honda suffered a 16 per cent decline in sales of its luxury cars, in part due to a planned restyling.

Meanwhile, as Japanese banks face the threat of punitive tariffs which would price them out of the US market, some Japanese car makers saw sales of their targeted models surge in the US last month.

Toyota said its Lexus luxury car division increased sales by 9 per cent, with its LS400 model posting a 71 per cent increase.

The move comes ahead of the announcement of a comprehensive package aimed at solving the problem of non-performing loans, scheduled for next week. The measures will give concrete shape to the

emergency economic package the government adopted in April.

"The introduction of public funds is one of the important themes in maintaining the stability of the financial system," said Mr Takemura. The decision on public funds is a break from the past as industrial companies have long opposed the use of taxpayers' money to ease the bad loan burden of the country's banks.

Wider opposition to the involvement of public funds

was highlighted earlier this year when the government's bailout plan for two defunct credit unions using Tokyo metropolitan government funds was temporarily derailed due to a fierce public outcry.

However, a deepening gloom over the weakness of the financial system has affected the Tokyo stock market and business confidence. The bad loans have hampered the financial institutions' ability to take on risk, obstructing the flow of funds into equities and to com-

panies. The ministry of finance has been facing increasing difficulty in convincing the public of the banks' stability. Last month, depositors at Noshiro Shinkin Bank, a small credit association in northern Japan, rushed to withdraw funds after reports of financial problems.

Mr Takemura said the package would include a specific deadline for disposal of bad loans. Yesterday's announcement heartened investors, and the Nikkei 225 index rose 254.56 points, or 1.6 per cent, to 15,849.13.

Meanwhile the ministry reportedly summoned officials from Moody's Investors Service, the international credit rating agency, following the placement of Nippon Credit Bank, Chuo Trust and Banking, and Hokkaido Takushoku Bank under review for a possible downgrade to junk bond grade. Moody's said the review reflected growing uncertainty about the authorities' ability to provide safeguards for stability in the banking system.

World Cup allure beckons Asian rivals

South Korea and Japan are competing fiercely to host football's premier event, writes Simon Kuper

is the continent's leading nation.

The bitterness reflects the money and prestige that hangs on the World Cup. Governments and corporate sectors from both nations are backing their country's bids. If Japan hosts the cup, its initial capital spending is expected to reach \$16bn (£10.4bn). Not least, the country would need 12 new stadiums, each seating more than 40,000 people. The government has promised full support at a time when it is reluctant to back infrastructure spending.

South Korea is attacking Japan's bid by pointing to the recent earthquake in Kobe and the terrorist gas attack on the Tokyo subway as potential risks of a Japanese World Cup.

Japan is using the slogan "First in Asia". This could be taken to mean that the 2002 World Cup, will be the first ever held in Asia. But it could also be suggesting that Japan

is the continent's leading nation.

Mr Kiichi Miyazawa, the former prime minister, chairs the Japanese Diet's action committee for the World Cup bid. He played football at high school.

"Unfortunately I was always a stand-in," he said. "That meant I could play any position except goalkeeper."

Mr Lee Hong-En gave up heading South Korea's bid last year to become his nation's prime minister. But he is still so involved that he made time for the service agreement.

Japan sees the World Cup as its chance to portray itself as playing a leading role in the international football authority. Sony Creative Products leads the merchandising rights to the 1998 World Cup in France.

Japanese companies see advertising and merchandising opportunities in the World Cup. The J.League, Japan's domestic soccer league, has

drawn sponsorship from Jap-

anese companies selling chiefly to the domestic market. As for multinationals such as Fuji and Canon, Mr Steven Dickson of ISL Worldwide said their image as football-linked companies would grow if Japan hosted the cup.

South Korea sees the World Cup partly as an excuse to build infrastructure, as with the 1988 Olympics. It hopes to build a railway to Beijing and by upgrading air networks, to turn Seoul into the Boso (Beijing-South Korea) air hub. Mr Lee said: "The 2002 World Cup would inaugurate a new regional centre."

Fifa, meanwhile, is tiring of the aggressive bidding. Last week it said it would select the host for 2002 early next year, rather than wait until next June as had been planned. The earlier the better for Japan. South Korea's bid is thought to be at a less advanced stage.

But much hangs on events at Wembley today.

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NEWS: UK

Old Bailey jury will hear that Robert Maxwell's son rejects theory that death at sea was suicide

Publisher 'believed he was acting within law'



ROBERT MAXWELL TRIAL

Robert Maxwell, the former publisher, was told yesterday that his son Mr Kevin Maxwell will claim that his father believed he was acting lawfully when he helped remove £100m of assets from Maxwell pension funds to pay off debts elsewhere in his business empire. Mr Kevin Maxwell also rejects the theory that his father's death at sea on November 5 1991 was suicide, Mr Alun Jones QC, acting for Mr Kevin Maxwell, said.

The claims were made when Mr Jones was outlining the basis of Mr Kevin Maxwell's defence against the fraud charges brought against him by the Serious Fraud Office. Mr Kevin Maxwell and his wife, Mrs Pandora Maxwell, will both go into the witness box to give evidence in his defence, the jury was told.

Mr Kevin Maxwell faces two charges of conspiracy to defraud. The first alleges he conspired with his father, Robert Maxwell, to defraud the pension funds by removing 5.4m of shares in Scitex, an Israeli printing equipment company and using them to obtain credit for the Maxwell private companies from National Westminster Bank.

The second charge alleges he conspired with his brother Mr Ian Maxwell and two former advisers to his father, Mr Larry Trachtenberg and Mr Robert Bunn, to defraud the pension funds by misusing £22m of pension fund assets in Teva Pharmaceuticals, another Israeli company. All four defendants deny the charges against them.

In his statement to the jury, Mr Jones said he would have to act as the advocate for Robert Maxwell as well as for Mr Kevin Maxwell.

"It is quite possible that Robert Maxwell was guilty of the dishonesty the prosecution alleges, but not his son. That is one real possibility. But it is not our case," he said.

"We shall be suggesting that Robert Maxwell was not dis-

honest in relation to the transactions which are the subject of count one," Mr Jones said. "He clearly considered he was lawfully entitled to transfer the Scitex and Teva shares."

The entire history of the Maxwell empire demonstrated that Robert Maxwell took all the decisions and got others to rubber stamp them later. The board of Maxwell Communication Corporation, one of his two publicly quoted companies, allowed him to take any decision on its behalf, Mr Jones said.

"He must have believed he was lawfully entitled to transfer assets, even from the pension fund company, to another company," Mr Jones said.

The core of Mr Kevin Maxwell's defence will be that he genuinely believed that both the Scitex and Teva shares had been transferred from the pension funds to the Robert Maxwell Group - the main vehicle for the Maxwell private companies - and could therefore be quite legally used to obtain credit for the company, he went on.

When Mr Kevin Maxwell agreed in July 1991 for the Scitex shares to be used to obtain credit, Robert Maxwell had shown him an amended memo which indicated that the Robert Maxwell Group was the owner of the shares, not the pension funds. Mr Jones said. Although this amended memo would not be produced in court during the trial, Mr Kevin Maxwell had referred to it as far back as February 1992, he said.

His father had also told him that the Teva shares had been transferred to the Robert Maxwell Group and so did not belong to the pension funds, Mr Jones said.

If Mr Kevin Maxwell believed that both shares legally belonged to the Robert Maxwell Group rather than the pension funds, this was a complete defence and he had acted lawfully in pledging them with NatWest Bank as security for loans, Mr Jones said. However, there would be other aspects to Mr Kevin Maxwell's defence, he went on.

At the time of his death, Robert Maxwell was very highly regarded by many people, Mr Jones said. He then read out letters praising Mr Maxwell written after his death by senior public figures such as former Labour leaders Lord Callaghan and Mr Neil Kinnock and the Foreign Secretary, Mr Douglas Hurd.

"It is not my purpose to say that Robert Maxwell was a heroic figure - quite the contrary. It was the perception people had of him - a perception his son is entitled to share," Mr Jones said.

At the time, Mr Kevin Maxwell also believed that the risk of the entire Maxwell empire becoming insolvent was less than that now alleged by the prosecution, he said.

Until November 5 1991, the value of assets exceeded the group's liabilities and disposals could be made to pay off debts, Mr Jones said.

Mr Kevin Maxwell also believed that the banks would continue to support the group, even after the death of his father. However, Robert Maxwell's death had a critical effect on his companies.

"It was not simply his death which caused problems," said Mr Jones. "It was the perception that the death was caused by suicide. We do not accept that Robert Maxwell killed himself but the perception led to disaster." This perception led to a plunge in the share price of Maxwell Communication Corporation which weakened the value of collateral held by the banks, he said.



Kevin Maxwell, seated, listens to his counsel, Alun Jones QC. Mr Jones said that he would have to act as advocate for the late Robert Maxwell as well as his son Kevin

After his father's death, Mr Kevin Maxwell also believed that an outside investor was prepared to inject up to £400m into the companies. However, the decision of NatWest and other banks, taken on December 3, to abandon the group meant this plan was frustrated and the repayment of debt was prevented. Mr Jones rejected the prosecution's claim that there had been a conspiracy.

At the time, Mr Kevin Maxwell also believed that the risk of the entire Maxwell empire becoming insolvent was less than that now alleged by the prosecution, he said.

Two themes would emerge during the trial, Mr Jones suggested - the dominance of Robert Maxwell and the fact that between 1984 and 1991 the Maxwell companies, including the pension fund companies, operated as a single group.

Coopers and Lybrand, auditors for the entire Maxwell group, could be expected to understand the relationship between the different companies, he said.

"We shall suggest that the use of the pension funds for the benefit of the group as a whole was regarded by a large number of people as acceptable and normal," he said.

A similar statement was then made by Mr Peter Rock QC on behalf of Mr Bunn, a former deputy managing director (finance) of the Robert Maxwell Group. Mr Bunn was subordinate within the organisation to both Robert Maxwell and Mr Kevin Maxwell, he said. Mr Bunn's role

enabled others to claim they had been kept ignorant of the facts and so avoid taking responsibility. Some prosecution witnesses might claim to have less knowledge than they did, he said.

"There is no sex or violence in this case but something more interesting - the reaction of a range of people facing a serious and impending crisis," he said. Some ran away, some panicked and some were motivated by a concern to look after "number one".

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Jubilee line work behind schedule

By Andrew Taylor
Construction Correspondent

Construction of key parts of the £1.5bn extension to the Jubilee line of London's underground rail system are running several months behind schedule but the development was still expected to finish on time, Mr Hugh Doherty project director said yesterday.

He was responding to claims that delays could force the project to open up to two years later than planned and cost twice its original budget.

"It is wrong to say that there have been no difficulties," Mr Doherty said. "There are always problems on a job of this scale and complexity. Nonetheless we still expect to open on March 22, 1994. I also believe we can meet the original budget. If we overshoot, it will not be by much."

There have been reports of tensions between the Jubilee line project team and some contractors building the project. An article in the latest issue of Construction News says that large numbers of claims for extra payments have been lodged by contractors following changes to design and specification.

Mr Doherty denied relations with contractors were poor.

"There is always going to be some disagreements over cost and specifications," he said. "But most contractors are responding well and we have a good relationship with them."

"There have been three main areas of concern. It has been necessary to strengthen a new dockland station being built at Canary Wharf. The collapse of a tunnel at Heathrow, on a separate project, also has caused delays and required tunneling methods to be modified slightly at new stations at London Bridge and Waterloo."

Delays had also been experienced on a section of tunnel between London Bridge and Canada Water, and at a new station at Bermondsey. Aki/Soleilanche a Japanese-French joint venture had acquired additional tunneling machines to catch-up the delay. "We are working well with this contractor," Mr Doherty said.

More recently work has halted on the westbound tunnel between Greenwich and Canary Wharf. This follows problems involving the seals on tunnel boring machinery, nicknamed Sharon. Another machine, Tracey, was halted as a precaution.

Tracey was expected to be back in operation by Monday week but Sharon would take a little longer to rectify, Mr Doherty said. The Greenwich/Canary Wharf tunnel, however, was running several months ahead of schedule.

He added that in no instance were delays more than about four months. In many cases lost time was being recovered.

Contractors yesterday had mixed views about the prospect of the extension finishing on time.

Some claimed that the project team was too slow in agreeing changes and interfered too much in design matters. Others, however, said that they had a good relationship with the client and were working hard to catch-up lost time.

John Mason

Focus on poverty switches from pensioners to jobless

By Andrew Adonis,
Public Policy Editor

The proportion of people receiving less than half average income after paying for housing has more than trebled since 1979, according to figures on income distribution released by the government yesterday.

The figures also show a significant change in the social composition of the lowest income groups, with the proportion of pensioners at the bottom end of the income scale sharply down since 1979 and their place

largely taken by the unemployed. Pensioner couples saw their average real income, after housing costs, rise by 53 per cent between 1979 and 1993, the highest increase for any of the "family types" identified in the statistics published by the Department of Social Security.

Single parents fared least well of the family types, with an increase of only 11 per cent over the period.

Although the figures confirm a long apparent trend, the further evidence of divergence between the living standards of pensioners and

those of the unemployed and single parents will influence policies on reform of the welfare state.

The growth of occupational pensions is a significant factor underlying the rapid improvement in the living standards of many pensioners. The figures will heighten the debate on the future of the state pension - the largest item in the £90bn social security budget - paid to pensioners irrespective of income and upgraded each year in line with prices.

The social composition of the bottom 10 per cent of the income scale

has changed dramatically since 1979. The proportion made up by pensioners has almost halved, and stood at only 20 per cent in 1993. By contrast, the unemployed accounted for about half in 1979, up from one-third in 1979.

Mr Peter Lilley, the social security secretary, highlighted the figures on pensioners. "Their income has risen faster than the average and pensioners at every level have seen an appreciable rise in their spending power," he said. He also emphasised the sharp increase in the possession

of consumer goods by those in the bottom 20 per cent of the income range. On one measure, between 1979 and 1993 the proportion with central heating almost doubled, to 75 per cent, while the number with telephones rose from 47 per cent to 74 per cent.

By 1992 more than half of the income group had video recorders and nearly half owned a car or van.

The survey underlines the growing disparity between those - whether earners, pensioners or the unemployed - at the top and bottom

of the income scale. Whereas the real average income for those in the top half of the income range rose by about 40 per cent in the 14 years between 1979, those in the bottom half saw their average income grow by only 10 per cent.

Over the period, the top 30 per cent saw their share of total income rise from 47 per cent to 54 per cent, while the top 10 per cent alone now command more than a quarter of total income.

Households below average income, HMSO, £26.

Press body reopens cash-for-questions inquiry

By Kevin Brown,
Political Correspondent

The Press Complaints Commission is to reopen its investigation into a complaint by a Conservative MP involved in the cash-for-questions affair, that The Sunday Times used subterfuge to gather evidence against him.

The commission ruled last year that the complaint, by Mr Graham Riddick MP for Colne Valley, was unsubstantiated because subterfuge was "the only effective investigative tool available" to the newspaper.

Yesterday the commission said it was reopening the investigation following an inquiry by the Commons privileges committee, which said The Sunday Times fell "substantially below" the standards expected of legitimate investigative journalism.

The committee noted an apparent discrepancy between evidence given to the commission's investigation and evidence given to MPs by Mr John Witherow, editor of the newspaper, and urged the commission to "examine this matter further."

The committee said Mr Witherow had told it that The Sunday Times began investiga-

ting MPs after an unnamed businessman told it that he had paid four unidentified MPs £1,000 each to table parliamentary questions.

In evidence to the commission, The Sunday Times said its inquiry was prompted by the broader allegation that it was "common practice for MPs to be paid for tabling questions, and that the young rate was £1,000".

The reopening of the investigation was welcomed by Conservative MPs, many of whom thought the privileges committee should have delivered a

much more severe reprimand to The Sunday Times.

Sir James Spicer, Tory MP for Dorset West, said the announcement was "good news". Sir James, a member of the committee, said it was widely believed that the conduct of The Sunday Times had not been properly investigated and that the young rate was justified.

Mr John Witherow, editor of The Sunday Times, denied that there was any discrepancy in evidence. "It is simply that the committee wanted to have a go at the press, to get back at them, and this is their way of

doing it," he said. Under the commission's code of practice, The Sunday Times would be required to print any further adjudication in full and in a prominent position.

The commission can also write to newspaper publishers in cases it considers serious. However, observers thought the commission was unlikely to conclude that such an approach was justified.

Mr Chris Smith, Labour's media spokesman said: "It is only a minor technical difference, then the PCC may well be wasting its time."

Buying and selling, he said, crossed across the face of the industry, viewed with suspicion by long-established institutional professionals, applauded by those who saw property as a source of quick gain. But he could not keep up with the pace he set himself.

His last deal, in November 1992, was the sale of his 22 per cent stake in Mountleigh, the company he had built. But it was valued at more than £270m compared with £20m in 1992. He had put himself on a treadmill and it was commercially impossible always to be doubling profits and as the property market slowed so the stock market lost interest.

He leaves a wife and three children.

OBITUARY

Tony Clegg: deals set property pace

Tony Clegg, who has died aged 58, was the epitome of that heady period in the second half of the 1980s when UK commercial property prices surged and, it appeared, profits would fall on those who ventured into the market. He was one of the best known property dealers of the decade.

Buying and selling, he said, crossed across the face of the industry, viewed with suspicion by long-established institutional professionals, applauded by those who saw property as a source of quick gain. But he could not keep up with the pace he set himself.

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He leaves a wife and three children.

Paul Cheeswright

Council's top jobs decision provokes uproar

By John Authors</p

COMPANY NEWS: UK

WPP chief offered pay package worth £25m

By Christopher Price

Mr Martin Sorrell has been offered a remuneration package which could net the WPP chief executive a total of £25m if the advertising group hits its performance targets over the next five years.

The move is likely to fuel the controversy over executive pay, although WPP yesterday defended its decision, yet to be approved by shareholders.

"We are an international company and our executive pay structure must reflect that," said Mr Gordon Stevens, chairman and member of the remuneration committee. He said the package was in line with similar companies' pay for executives, "unless the share price triples and then he gets well rewarded - so do shareholders."

Mr Sorrell's package is made up of three parts, the most potentially lucrative called the Capital Investment Plan. Under this five-year incentive scheme, Mr Sorrell has invested about £1.2m in WPP shares, which are held in a trust, with a further £900,000 of shares paid for by the company to cover certain contractual arrangements given up by Mr



Martin Sorrell: pay and bonus deal made up of three parts

The shares cannot be sold for five years.

In addition, the company has paid 25.4m for 4.6m shares, which are placed in trust. These latter shares are paid to Mr Sorrell in tranches of 1.17m if the share price reaches the levels of 180p, 230p, 265p and 304p respectively. The price must stay at or above the target level for 60 consecutive trading days, and have outperformed the FT-SE 100 Index from September 4 1994 to the achievement of the target level. WPP shares closed at 120p yesterday, down 5p.

At 304p, Mr Sorrell's share

bonus will be worth about £1.2m, but he must hold each tranche for five years. The market value of the group would be £3.2bn, compared with the current £2.65bn.

Mr Sorrell's remuneration package is worth a potential £2.5m over five years. This is conditional on WPP hitting targets including operating profit margins and cash flow. The performance of WPP against a basket of other international advertising agencies is used in the calculation.

Finally, Mr Sorrell's remuneration package has been increased by about 50 per cent to £2.25m (£5.32m) over five years. The shares cannot be sold for five years.

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£14m placing to fund third dairy acquisition since flotation

Robert Wiseman rises to £7m

By David Blackwell

Robert Wiseman Dairies, the Scottish liquid milk processor and distributor, yesterday reported record results and announced a £14m placing in order to make its third acquisition since the March 1994 flotation.

The group is to pay up to £14m cash for the Co-operative Wholesale Society's Scottish milk business. The deal, which follows last year's purchase of two other Scottish dairy companies, will give it 27 per cent of the Scottish market.

In the year to April 1 Wiseman's pre-tax profits rose from £2.1m to £7.02m. Sales leapt from £59.7m to £107.9m, including £27.7m from acquisitions.

The group has concentrated on supplying liquid milk in cartons and plastic bottles to supermarkets and shops, and relies very little on the declining doorstep delivery market. Although based in Scotland, it has invested £10m in a new Manchester dairy which is expected to start processing milk in August.

Mr Alan Wiseman, chairman, said that doorstep deliveries were down to 16 per cent of the market in Scotland, compared with 50 per cent in England. He believed that Scotland's doorstep deliveries would eventually settle at about 12 per cent, and that England would move towards the Scottish levels.

"Our business is only 11 per cent doorstep," he said. "Our profits are 85 to 90 per cent from servicing retailers." Sales of milk from English supermarkets were growing at about 12 per cent a year.

The group plans to raise £14m through a placing of 11.2m shares at 120p with a 7-for-40 clawback. The shares,

which were 100p on flotation, closed 2p down at 140p yesterday.

The Wiseman family has given an irrevocable undertaking not to take up their rights under the offer, which will reduce their stake from 73.8 per cent to 63 per cent.

Gearing, which was 21 per cent at the year end, will remain at about the same level after the placing. Funds remaining after the Co-op purchase will most likely be used for further acquisitions.

The company also announced the sale of the former Klemmery dairy in Edinburgh to Teague Homes (Scotland) for £2.37m cash against a book value of £770,000.

Earnings per share improved from 7.22p to 7.88p. A proposed final dividend of 1.85p takes the total to 2.75p.

COMMENT

It is difficult to believe Wiseman is talking about the same industry as Northern and Unigate. Its Scottish origins helped to wean it from the doorstep delivery market early, leaving it poised to advance into England. The group has clearly weathered the deregulation of the milk market well.

The new structure combines the management of Baring Brothers, Baring Securities and ING Capital. ING Research and ING Investment Banking will be integrated into the structure shortly.

Management of the newly formed Baring Investment Bank will be headed by Mr Hessel Lindenbergh, the ING board member responsible for investment banking.

Mr Lane Griggs, chairman of ING's US securities arm, becomes deputy chairman and with Mr Hans Bartges will take responsibility for the western hemisphere.

Mr Simon Burrows, who was made a director of Barings Brothers in 1994, becomes joint head of corporate finance and with Mr Charles Irby, Head of corporate finance for emerging markets will be Mr Christopher Kenwell.

Mr Peter Geraghty, president of Internationale Nederlanden (UK) Capital Holdings, is made head of global debt and derivatives trading and sales.

Eastern chairman to quit

By Michael Smith

Mr James Smith, one of the most influential of electricity company executives during the industry's privatisation four years ago, is to step down as Eastern Group's chairman on November 28. He will be succeeded by Mr Niven Duncan, deputy chairman.

Mr Duncan, a former vice-chairman of the Sedgwick insurance group and a member of Eastern's remuneration committee, will be paid a salary of £105,000.

Mr Smith, 67, was chairman of the regional electricity companies' chairman's group at privatisation when he was also chairman and chief executive of Eastern. After privatisation he joined the City by suggesting Eastern could be interested in nuclear power as part of its moves to become an integrated energy company.

He is credited with initiating Eastern's policy of diversifying into gas and power generation and bringing in outsiders such as Mr John Devaney, chief executive, and Mr Eric Azslee, finance director.

Mr Duncan, 63, has been a non-executive director of Eastern since 1989.

Gehe pays £1m compensation to AAH directors

By David Blackwell

Gehe, the German pharmaceuticals wholesaler, will pay almost £1m in compensation for loss of office to the top men at AAH, the UK drugs distributor and retailer.

The German group won control of AAH in early May after a contested £400m bid. Mr Dieter Klemmer, chairman of Gehe's management board, has become chairman of AAH.

Mr Bill Revell, the chief executive who joined AAH in 1988, was entitled to three years notice and a salary of £111,500. Mr John Padavan, chairman, had a two-year contract and a salary of £72,000.

Together with Mr John Townsend MP, Mr Andrew Hart and Mr Angus Clark, they resigned with effect from May 31.

Sole survivor is Mr Gary Greenhalgh, assistant group managing director. He is joined on the new board by Mr David Taylor, Dr Karl-Gerhard Eick and Mr Stefan Meister.

Securicor grapples with its profitable headache

Geoff Dyer on problems stemming from Cellnet's success

Securicor's 40 per cent stake in Cellnet must rank as one of the all-time great investments.

The security, parcels and communications group spent \$4m on its part in the 1984 joint venture with British Telecommunications to bid for one of the two mobile telephone licences.

Analysts estimate the holding is now worth about £1.5bn.

But it is also proving to be a headache for management. Last year Cellnet contributed nearly 70 per cent of the group's pre-tax profits and Mr Christopher Shirliffe, finance director, says it represents 80 per cent of its market capitalisation.

But it is a company over which Securicor has no management control. As Mr Shirliffe says, it "is rather like the tail wagging the dog".

This realisation prompted its approach to BT to buy the remaining 40 per cent. Now a BT bid has been scuppered, Securicor says it is "considering all of its options". These are:

• Do nothing: Securicor could sit on the Cellnet stake, continue to collect the rapidly expanding revenues and wait for the DTI to lift its restriction on BT taking full control.

However this runs the risk of seeing the group become further unbalanced with no guarantee of an eventual solution.

• Trade sale: The group could offer the stake to another company. Within the industry the names most widely touted by analysts are AirTouch, the US mobile phone operator, Bell South, the US telecoms group, and Veha, the German conglomerate.

Mr Shirliffe said yesterday that Securicor was not in discussions with any other party, but he stressed that the agreement with BT did not prevent a trade sale.

But it is a company over which Securicor has no management control. As Mr Shirliffe says, it "is rather like the tail wagging the dog".

His priority is to strengthen the balance sheet. Since Chalcoc, Mr Akers's company, reversed into Ferrum last year, borrowings have been extended to bridge the period until some assets are sold. Gearing is nearly 250 per cent. There is no indication when dividend payments will resume. The last was in 1992.

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The meeting drew to a close with a more positive endorsement of the board's performance from another shareholder, who said: "Whether people think you are good or not, at least you are not as bad as Trafalgar House."

His comments worked with some shareholders. Mr Harry Richards, a small shareholder who rejected Trafalgar House, said: "This is not just a second rendering of the Boston Tea Party."

The board's refusal to consider a new bid was affecting the company's share price, he added.

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INTERNATIONAL COMPANIES AND FINANCE

Fiat restores dividend as recovery continues

By Andrew Hill
in Rome

Fiat, the Italian automotive and industrial group, yesterday announced a net profit of L1.01bn (\$613.91m) for 1994, and proposed resuming dividend payments on ordinary and preference shares.

In 1993, Fiat reported a net loss of L1.783bn, the biggest in its history, and omitted its ordinary dividend for the first time since 1947.

The recovery was well heralded by Mr Giovanni Agnelli, the group's chairman, in his

annual letter to shareholders in February.

The group added yesterday that, on the basis of the first four months of 1995, it was expecting to beat its initial forecasts for this year, and report a "notable increase" in profit over 1994.

Consolidated group sales in the first quarter of this year reached L18.600bn, 28 per cent up on the same period of 1994.

At April 30, sales stood at L25.000bn, an increase of "more than 28 per cent" over the first four months of last year. In the whole of 1994, the

group increased sales by 22 per cent to L65.842bn, from L53.800bn.

In February, Mr Agnelli indicated that Fiat would report a pre-tax profit of some L1.750m for 1994. In fact, the group returned a profit of L1.885m before tax, against a loss of L1.824bn the previous year.

The board has proposed a dividend of L50 for each ordinary or preference share, including the long-awaited replacements for the mid-range Tipo - the Fiat Bravo and Fiat Brava - at the end of August.

Net debt was also cut sharply in 1994 to L2.000bn -

roughly 8 per cent of shareholders' equity - compared with L3.200bn at the end of 1993.

Fiat underlined yesterday, however, that economic uncertainty and growing pressure from competition meant it could not lower its guard. Following the success of the Punto small car, Fiat Auto is continuing with the rapid-fire launch of new models, including the long-awaited replacements for the mid-range Tipo - the Fiat Bravo and Fiat Brava

- at the end of August.

Mr Agnelli and Mr Cesare

Romiti, Fiat's chief executive, said in 1993 that they would see the automotive group through the period of losses, and perhaps step down in mid-1996. However, Fiat has consistently denied rumours that it is preparing successors to the chairman and chief executive.

Yesterday Mr Giovanni Alberto Agnelli, the chairman's nephew, took over as representative of Ifi and Ifil, the main Agnelli holding companies, on the syndicate of Fiat's main shareholders.

Swedish bank buys Skopbank operations

By Christopher Brown-Humes
in Stockholm

One of Sweden's leading commercial banks is significantly extending its Nordic base by buying FM585m (\$134.2m) to buy a substantial part of Finland's biggest casualty of the country's 1992 banking crisis.

It is Handelsbanken's biggest foreign acquisition and drives forward its strategy of establishing a significant corporate and retail banking presence in Norway, Finland and Denmark. The purchase makes it the fourth largest bank in Finland with assets of FM255m.

Skopbank has been propped up with FM195m of support since it came under state control in 1991. It acts as a wholesale bank and a provider of central services to the Finnish savings bank sector, but has no retail outlets.

Mr Magnus Uggla, head of Handelsbanken International, said the purchase would provide the customers to support the build-up of Handelsbanken's retail banking operations in Finland.

The Swedish bank is taking over the healthy part of Skopbank's loan and bank guarantee portfolios, worth FM4.4m, equal to 40 per cent of Skopbank's total loan portfolio, and deposits worth FM400m. It is also acquiring a specialist mortgage company and a finance company.

Handelsbanken beat competition from Postbankki, the state-owned Finnish bank, and Japan's Nomura to clinch the deal. The purchase price is 20 per cent above the estimated net asset value of the acquired units. Handelsbanken says the premium is justified because the Finnish government has guaranteed it against loan losses until the end of 1996.

San Paolo's holding company, which is committed to reducing its stake in the bank to below 50 per cent, said that the cross-shareholdings were only the first step in what could be a wider collaboration in several sectors.

Bond markets surge on weak US jobs data

By Lisa Branstetter in New York
and Corner Middelmann in Stockholm

Government bond markets in the US and Europe surged yesterday after weaker-than-expected US jobs data indicated that the economy is slowing more sharply than forecast.

By late morning the curve had steepened to 103 basis points from 88 points late Thursday.

European government bond markets were swept up by the US rally, posting gains across the board as rates fell mostly by the short maturities, causing yield curves to steepen.

Treasuries outperformed Europe, and in the 10-year sector, the US yield spread over German bonds widened to 41 basis points, from 30 on Thursday.

Immediately after the figures were released, the long bond surged 2½ points, sending the yield near 6.43. The yield on all of the other bonds slipped below the federal funds target of 6 per cent.

At 1230, bonds had retreated from their highs of the day but were still extremely strong. The benchmark 30-year Treasury was up 18 at 114 to yield 6.48, and the yield on the 10-year bond climbed back above 6 per cent to 6.02 per cent. At the short end of the maturity spectrum, the two year note rose 4 at 101 to yield 5.45.

Bond market investors were mostly caught off guard by the 10.100 decrease in non-farm employment registered in May. Most analysts believed the decline of 7,000 jobs in April - originally reported at

9,000 - was an aberration and had predicted a rebound in May with job growth of about 172,000.

Performance was especially strong at the short end of the market, which led to a steepening of the yield curve that maps the spread between two-year notes and the long bond.

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The second tranche is expected to be issued in late 1995 or early 1996, and the government aims to raise some FM150m (\$3.14m) from the offering. After selling 30 per cent to the public last year, the state now owns 70 per cent of the company, but is widely expected to give up its majority holding.

If timed as planned, the offering will come in the midst of a slew of European telecommunications privatisations expected to total more than \$60bn over the next year, the biggest of which, Deutsche Telekom, is forecast to net some DMI5bn (\$10bn).

KPN co-ordinator named

By Conner Middelmann

ABN AMRO has been appointed global co-ordinator for the sale of a second tranche of shares in the Dutch telecoms operator Koninklijke PTT Nederland (KPN).

ABN will be joined by Internationale Nederlanden Groep and Rabobank as leaders of the Dutch tranche - the same line-up as in the first KPN float in June 1994. The appointment of regional managers for the sale in other parts of the world will be made at a later date. N.M. Rothschild is acting as the government's adviser.

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JAPANESE BROKERS: consolidated results, year to March 31 1995			
Sales (Y bn)	Recurring profits* (Y bn)	1994-95	1993-94
Nomura	554.8	658.3	32.6
Daishi	388.8	448.8	38.7
Nikko	265.5	350.8	26.7
Yamaichi	198.2	280.2	68.5
		11.0	

* Before extraordinary items and tax

Source: company reports

subsidiary incurred a loss of Y20m. The company declined to make a forecast for 1995-96.

Daishi expects to return to the black in the current year with recurring profits of Y36bn on a 12 per cent rise in revenue to Y420m. Nikko forecasts a recurring profit of Y26bn on a 15 per cent rise in revenues to Y365bn while Yamaichi expects recurring earnings to total Y11.5bn on a 37 per cent jump in revenue to Y27.5bn.

Meanwhile, Japan's 10 second-tier brokers all posted consolidated recurring losses for the year to last March. The poor performance of Asian stocks hurt their Hong Kong-based subsidiaries.

Kankaku Securities reported the largest recurring loss at Y35.5bn, followed by Sanyo Securities which saw current losses at Y34.5bn. Kankaku's Singapore unit posted a loss of Y457m while Sanyo's Hong Kong arm registered a loss of Y506m. The Hong Kong operation of Cosmo Securities, which posted a group recurring loss of Y1.5bn, incurred a deficit of Y100m.

New Japan Securities' UK subsidiary reported a loss of Y1.5bn due to foreign exchange losses while Tokyo Securities was the only second-tier broker to record a profit for combined earnings of its overseas subsidiaries.

Japan's brokers hit by overseas losses

By Emiko Terazawa in Tokyo and agencies

Losses on overseas business added to the problems of Japan's "big four" securities houses during the past financial year, with Nomura Securities hardest hit by big losses in its European operation.

The four - Nomura, Daishi, Nikko and Yamaichi - all posted consolidated losses for the year to last March. When they reported parent results two weeks ago, only Nomura scraped the black.

Yesterday all four said that poor results at their European subsidiaries had hit hard. Bond underwriting revenues plunged following a fall in bond issuance by Japanese companies due to a change in accounting standards on warrant bonds.

La France is 55 per cent owned by Eurofrance, which is in turn 60 per cent owned by Lazard Frères.

The deal will generate about FFr2bn after tax for La France which the group said it would be using to strengthen its asset base.

La France will have the chance under the agreement to exchange its shares in Generali France Holding for shares in Generali France or an equivalent payment in cash.

Generali's existing operations in France include Generali France, La Concorde, la Fédération Continentale and Europ Assistance.

Gruppo Bancario San Paolo, the holding company, said it would sell a 2 per cent stake in the bank to Banco Santander and 2 per cent to IMI. Compagnie de Suez will buy a further 0.5 per cent. All three will eventually be represented on the board of either the holding company or the bank.

San Paolo already has reciprocal stakes of 0.6 per cent in Suez and 6.5 per cent in IMI, and in April it signed a commercial agreement with Banco Santander to develop commer-

cial and merchant banking projects.

San Paolo and its Italian allies are likely to consolidate their position as cross shareholders of IMI and of Ina, the Italian insurer, in the next phase of Italian privatisation. The government has said it intends to sell off some of its remaining shares in IMI and Ina over the summer.

IMI and Banco Santander will pay about L150m (\$90.93m) each for their stakes in San Paolo, at L10,000 a

share, a substantial premium to the market price. They will also have the option to increase their stakes to 5 per cent. IMI will have to exercise the option by this time next year, and the Spanish bank by the end of June 1997.

San Paolo's holding company, which is committed to reducing its stake in the bank to below 50 per cent, said that the cross-shareholdings were only the first step in what could be a wider collaboration in several sectors.

For the submission of Expressions of Interest and obtaining a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding, please contact the Liquidator, ETHNIKI KEPHALEIOU S.A., Administration of Assets and Liabilities, 1 Skoutelou Str., Athens, Greece. In its capacity as Liquidator of THE UNITED PACKAGING INDUSTRIES OF GREECE S.A., a company with its registered office in Athens, Greece, the "Company", presently under special liquidation according to the provisions of Section 46a of Law 1862/1990, by virtue of Decree 5074/95 of the Athens Court of Appeal, invites interested parties to submit within twenty (20) days from the publication of this call, a non-binding written expression of interest in purchasing the group of assets mentioned below.

SIMPLY FINE. The Company was established in 1974. In 1989 it was declared bankrupt and on 15.5.95 it was placed under special liquidation. Its objectives included the production and sale of packaging materials.

GROUPS OF ASSETS OFFERED FOR SALE

The sale of the assets of the Company will take place by way of Public Auction in accordance with the provisions of Section 46a of Law 1862/1990, as supplemented by art.14 of L2000/1991 and art.63 of L2224/1994 and the terms set out in the Call for Tenders for the highest bid for the purchase of the above assets, to be published in the Greek and foreign press on the dates provided by Law.

SUBMISSION OF EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST - OFFERING MEMORANDUM - INFORMATION

For the submission of Expressions of Interest and for obtaining a copy of the Offering Memorandum, please contact the Liquidator, ETHNIKI KEPHALEIOU S.A., Administration of Assets and Liabilities, 1 Skoutelou Str., Athens 161 61, GREECE. Tel: +30-1-323.14.67-7, Fax: +30-1-321.79.05 (attention Mrs Marika Frangoulis).

Notice to the Noteholders
International Bank for Reconstruction and Development

LIT 300,000,000,000.00

Floating Rate Notes due 1997

In accordance with Condition 6(b) of the Terms and Conditions of the above issue, notice is hereby given that all the outstanding Notes will be redeemed at the option of the Issuer on July 3rd, 1997 at their principal amount.

Payment of the principal amount of the Notes will be made upon presentation of the Notes with Coupon No. 12 and following attached at the offices of the Fiscal Agent or any of the Paying Agents:

Fiscal Agent
Banque Paribas Luxembourg S.A.
10A Boulevard Royal
L-2022 Luxembourg

Paying Agents

Ganca di Roma S.p.A.
Piazza Tommaso Edison 1
I-20122 Milan
Luxembourg, June 3rd, 1996

Swiss Bank Corporation
8 Paradeplatz
CH-8001 Zurich

Holvis

Holvis Inc.
Maltese 15
CH-4006 Basel
Phone +41 61 272 60 35
Fax +41 61 272 1774

Letter to the Shareholders

FINANCIAL TIMES

Number One Southwark Bridge, London SE1 9HL
Tel: +44 171-873 3000 Telex: 922186 Fax: +44 171-407 5700
Saturday June 3 1995

Goldilocks and the bear

Mr Robert Reich, the US labour secretary, has spent most of the year predicting a "Goldilocks" expansion for the US: not hot enough to fuel inflation, nor cold enough to stall the economy, but just right. Until yesterday, US bond and securities markets had hot enjoyed believing in the story. The bears lurked only in the market for dollars.

Bond traders liked the Goldilocks scenario for its promise of low inflation: as far as they are concerned, the cooler the economy, the better. But those who earn their livelihood from the growth in the real economy need evidence of underlying warmth, and there was little of that in yesterday's exceptionally weak US employment and earnings data. Bond markets celebrated as gloomsters predicted a hard landing for the economy, and, perhaps, no landing at all for the dollar.

Both fears are probably overstated. After all, a market in which yields on 30-year US bonds fall nearly one-fifth of a percentage point, in half an hour, is clearly not being led by the cool headed. Yesterday's employment data, which triggered the upsurge, were certainly startling. But, for the moment at least, the second bet, on further dollar decline, looks safer than the wager on an impending slump.

Instead of growing significantly as most had expected, US payrolls stand by 101,000 in May. Taken alongside the previous month's employment decline, the data indicate that the labour market has moved far from the boom-time conditions of 1994, when the economy gained some 3.5m jobs. But far enough to herald a recession?

Proponents of the hard landing scenario can cite other data released this week in their support. First, Thursday's purchaser's managers' index for May showed the first decline in US manufacturing activity in nearly two years. Meanwhile, orders placed with US factories were found to have fallen 1.9 per cent in April, the third such drop in three months, and by some way the largest.

Significant figures

These figures are significant, because, until now, most believed that only the markets closest to the consumer - housing and consumer durables - were suffering the effects of the Federal Reserve's doubling of short-term interest rates over the past 18 months. Money market traders are now betting that, to avert a recession, the Fed chairman, Mr Alan Greenspan, will opt to reverse at least one of last year's increases in the next two months.

Clearly, the odds that US interest rates may be cut before the end of the year are more favourable than ever.

A dollar plunge may be averted as long as traders and others believe that the US, Japanese and German governments are willing to cooperate to avert it. While US and Japan edge towards a costly trade war, however, the chances of deeper cooperation look slim. At best, in the long term, truly putting a floor on the dollar will require even more: an end to the global excess supply of dollars, and an end to the excess demand for yen. A Goldilocks recovery it may be, but US savings patterns continue to make that aspect of the story look very much like a fairy tale.

MAN IN THE NEWS: General Alexander Lebed

Soldier who appeals to craving for order

The soldiers of Russia's 14th army have come up with a catchier one-liner to describe their local commander, General Alexander Lebed. "He has the brain of Albert Einstein and the physique of Arnold Schwarzenegger," they explain to visitors who have not yet had the good fortune of meeting the darling of the army's rank and file.

The troops serve under Gen Lebed in the Trans Dneestr, an enclave of Russian-speaking separatists on the north-eastern periphery of Moldova. By fending off attempts to incorporate them into their Romanian-speaking neighbour, he has earned the admiration of both soldiers and local people.

One of President Boris Yeltsin's worst nightmares is that Gen Lebed's attractions could prove equally potent among Russian voters, making the maverick officer a dangerous rival in the elections scheduled for June 1996.

From his obscure outpost hundreds of miles from the Russian border, Gen Lebed, 45, vaulted into second place in a recent newspaper ranking of potential presidential candidates. This week, the likelihood of a presidential challenge increased when the Ministry of Defence accepted the resignation Gen Lebed had tendered in protest at Moscow's plans to downgrade and eventually withdraw its army from the Trans Dneestr.

As commander-in-chief, Mr Yeltsin must take the final decision on whether to accept Gen Lebed's resignation. If he rejects it, he risks humiliating his minister of defence and leaving in place an insubordinate commander likely to block Russia's pledge to withdraw its troops from Moldova over the next three years. But if he accepts it, he will be in danger of transforming the general into a martyr in the eyes of his nationalist supporters and freeing him to pursue

The attack on the UK's largest investment institutions was unsparing. "You have behaved like the trade union bosses of the 1970s," said Professor Joe Lamb during the debate at the British Gas annual meeting on Wednesday. "So what about shareholder democracy?"

Nearly all of the 4,600 shareholders who attended the six-hour meeting wanted to see changes to the company's new executive remuneration structure. But their efforts were overwhelmingly defeated, thanks to the block votes of investment institutions such as the Prudential, given to the company ahead of the meeting.

The defeat of two critical resolutions raised questions about the close relationships between public companies and their largest shareholders. There were calls for investment institutions to make public how they vote at meetings, and to consult widely beforehand.

Many speakers at the meeting wanted Mr Richard Giordano, British Gas's chairman, to give full details of how the investment institutions had voted. He refused.

"If I find out that Legal & General have backed the board I'll cancel my policy," one shareholder said.

In spite of all the excitement however, both private and institutional owners of just under half of the shares of British Gas did not bother to vote. The government wants institutions to vote more, but stops short of supporting moves to force them to do so.

Lord Mackay of Ardbrecknish, the social security minister, told the House of Lords recently that "the government strongly believes that institutions should develop constructive, long-term relationships with the companies in which they invest. Regularly voting their shares can be an important part of that relationship."

He was speaking during a debate in the Lords on the pension bill. Amendments submitted by Labour would make the voting of shares a duty for pension funds and require pension fund trustees to report back to members.

In the US, private-sector pension funds are legally required to exercise their votes - even in overseas companies - and to do so in the best interests of their beneficiaries.

In the UK it is left up to individual institutions. The Association of British Insurers urges its members to avoid abstaining. According to Mr Richard Regan, head of investment affairs, its members have voted consistently at annual meet-

The big boys on the block

The relationship between companies and their biggest investors has highlighted concerns over shareholder democracy, say William Lewis and David Wighton



ings since the mid-1980s. He adds: "By and large, ABI members have a 90 per cent to 95 per cent proxy lodgement rate." ABI members hold approximately 18 per cent of British Gas's shares, and nearly all of that was voted.

Association members "vote in favour of the company unless there is a contentious issue that has not been resolved," Mr Regan says. "If that is the case then the chances are they will oppose."

Mr Paul Mynders, executive chairman of Gartmore, which has almost £20bn of pension funds under management, says that voting should be an integral part of the job of a fund

manager. "It is part of your professional service to your client." On straightforward matters Gartmore does which way to vote itself but on controversial issues, such as British Gas, it consults the trustees of the funds it manages.

Mr Mynders says that such consultation should be seen as the responsibility of the client, not merely part of the fund manager's responsibility. "The institutions do not actually own the shares but stand in the place of the ultimate owner. It is very important that the chain of responsibility in corporate governance is completed."

While Gartmore holds the votes

itself, other pension fund managers take a different approach. According to Mr Charlie King, a former scheme trustee who helped introduce the reform, fund managers for the scheme report back regularly on how their proxies have been cast. "If there is a really contentious issue then the fund manager would come back to us and say 'What's your verdict?'; and the trustees would have a vote on it."

Privately, institutions that backed the British Gas board say they did so after full consultation with their clients. But until they are more open about their procedures, they are likely to be the butt of more criticism from small shareholders.

vote on their behalf and deal with the paperwork. The agency has been voting for a number of UK institutions for some years and is "actively looking to expand" outside the US, says Mr Howard Sherman, international director.

But such services have a price tag, and many UK fund managers question whether the benefits from a system of compulsory voting would be worth the cost. A director of one leading institution says: "Making people vote does not make them vote well and, if anything, it would create more of a block-vote system because the decision-making would have to be delegated to the fund managers and proxy voting services."

If compulsory voting has less than overwhelming support, among UK fund managers, public voting produces an even stronger reaction. Mr Mynders says: "Your clients certainly have a right to know how you vote but the public has an even more right than it would in a parliamentary election."

Mr Sherman of ISS agrees: "It is no business of anybody else how the votes are cast." If anything, he believes the process should be more secret in that the company should not automatically know which way its shareholders vote.

But for many pension fund managers the issue is not public accountability but the accountability of fund managers to the ultimate beneficiaries. Rather than seeking approval from beneficiaries on each occasion, some trustees, after consulting with the members they represent, have put in place corporate governance guidelines for fund managers.

The trustees of the two pension schemes for British Gas workers put in place a corporate governance guide two and a half years ago. It lays down principles for fund managers on how the pension funds' votes are to be used. According to Mr Charlie King, a former scheme trustee who helped introduce the reform, fund managers for the scheme report back regularly on how their proxies have been cast. "If there is a really contentious issue then the fund manager would come back to us and say 'What's your verdict?'; and the trustees would have a vote on it."

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public disagreements. So when managers are unhappy with a company's management, their first instinct is to sell the stock. Why waste time trying to reform what might be a hopeless case?

However, there are companies where selling is not an option. Most funds will own stock in British Gas, for example, because it is such a large market constituent. If they owned none, they would risk falling behind the stock market indices if the shares raced ahead.

In such circumstances, the managers tend to approach the companies quietly, perhaps through the Association of British Insurers or the National Association of Pension Funds. "It's a lot more effective than standing up and shouting at an annual general meeting," says one senior fund manager.

Philip Coggan and Norma Cohen on the performance pressures faced by fund managers

A cautionary culture

The power of institutional investors has been thrown sharply into focus this week by the use of their block votes to defeat two critical resolutions at this week's annual meeting of British Gas.

To many of the small shareholders who cast their much smaller votes in favour of the critical resolution, the fund managers responsible for these institutions seemed to be wielding enormous and unacceptable power.

To the fund managers, however, it does not feel like that. They see themselves as directly accountable to the pension fund trustees, insurance company policyholders, or small investors in the unit trusts they manage.

They are under constant pressure to produce substantial returns to the investments they manage, and

beat their peers and the market index. A few quarters of mediocre returns for a pension fund manager mean awkward questions from the trustees and, possibly, the loss of the contract.

On the retail side, underperformance leads to sales of units by the financial intermediaries who advise small investors.

Until the 1970s, fund managers were low in the City's pecking order. But their status has improved, in part, because fund management has become recognised as a steady source of valuable earnings - fund management groups receive an annual percentage of their assets under management come rain or shine.

Fund management has also become a more sophisticated business. Twenty years ago, a fund manager was likely to rely heavily on a broker's tips, usually given after a good lunch. Insider dealing laws now restrict such advice and a good manager needs to understand analysis techniques such as discounted dividend models and price-to-book ratios.

Most fund managers are accordingly university graduates who join management firms straight from college and worked their way up the ladder. "They don't have much experience of the real world" admits one senior city figure. Ms Carol Galley, who was

recently appointed vice-chairman of Mercury Asset Management Group, started with the company as a librarian 24 years ago. Mr Dick Barfield, head of investment at Standard Life, the life insurance company, joined the group straight from university in Edinburgh.

By the standards of most of the UK, they are very well paid, with an established City fund manager earning £70,000-£100,000, plus a performance bonus. But only a handful of senior fund managers could ever hope to earn the pay of Mr Cedric Brown, the chief executive of British Gas.

Years of absorption into the City culture tend to breed caution and a desire not to "rock the boat" with

CAR BUFF



Home is Russia" offer rather unpossessing leadership. As former communist officials, the regional government bosses and factory directors who make up "Our Home is Russia" represent the unappealing version of stability the country endured during the Brezhnev years. Moreover, the ruling élite's newfound respect for order risks being undermined in the eyes of voters by the past four years of chaotic transition, during which the founders of "Our Home is Russia" remained firmly in office.

Gen Lebed, in contrast, can offer an exemplary track record. Born at Novocherkassk in southern Russia, he entered the army as a cadet at the Ryazan parachute command college. He served in the Afghan war, where he was decorated for bravery, something that appeals in Russia.

Compared with the physically striking Gen Lebed, however, the stalwart apparatchiks of "Our

compatriots by force of arms. In addition, Gen Lebed was an early and outspoken opponent of army intervention in Chechnya. This has turned out to be a shrewd move in a war that has become increasingly unpopular and embarrassing among ordinary Russians.

The delicate balance Gen Lebed has managed to strike between the causes dear to nationalists and the issues promoted by democrats have endowed him with a useful political ambiguity. Like General Colin Powell in the US, he is wooed by parties on all sides.

However, there remains a question over Gen Lebed's ability to transform his latent political capital into a realistic bid for the presidency. His position in the army has allowed him to retain a reputation as an honourable defender of law and order which could evaporate if he plunged directly into the bumpy-bumpy of politics.

Moreover, Gen Lebed has no organisational base of his own. He would have to choose allies to provide him with a campaigning force - if he chose wrongly, he would risk becoming the figurehead of a political party he did not control.

But the smartly turned-out soldiers of the 14th army testify to his organisational skills, while his high opinion poll ratings suggest an innate populist instinct, which more experienced politicians can only envy. Gen Lebed, who generally shies away from making overt political statements, is an unabashed admirer of former Chilean military dictator General Augusto Pinochet. As they survey the chaos of their country, many Russians appear inclined to invite Gen Lebed to follow in Pinochet's footsteps.

He played a critical role in the



LOUIS VUITTON COUTURE D'ÉTÉ 1995, HERITAGE COLLECTION	2 June
THE BEADS, LONDON	4 June-13 August
THE LUXEMBOURG HOUSE ANTIQUES FAIR	10 June
ROSE AGRIC	13-24 June
THE VINTAGE GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP, CAMPING PARIS	20-23 June
WILLINGBROOK TENNIS CAMPING-VILLAGE	25 June-19 July
DE LUXE BOUTIQUE, LONDON	25 June-2 July
20th CENTURY FINE ART, LONDON, FINEARTS	6-11 July
LAWRENCE KELK, LONDON, FINE ART	19 July-2 August

■ **Veuve Clicquot** ■
CHAMPAGNE OF THE SEASON

He played a critical role in the

MARKETS REPORT

Dollar gyrations

The dollar yesterday had a day of enormous volatility on the foreign exchanges as weak economic data and worries about the conflict in Bosnia combined to pull it in sharply different directions, writes *Philippe Gauthier*.

The release of a much weaker than expected jobs report saw the dollar fall two pennies to DM1.39 from DM1.41. News of a Nato war plane being shot down in Bosnia, however, was trigger for a short-covering rally which took the dollar back up towards DM1.42 in the New York afternoon. Against the yen it was trading around Y85, up from Y83.50 after the jobs report.

News of slowing growth in the US prompted a huge rally in credit markets. The September eurodollar contract, for example, finished 33 basis points up at \$4.62, discounting three month money falling to around 5.4 per cent from its current level of 5.8 per cent.

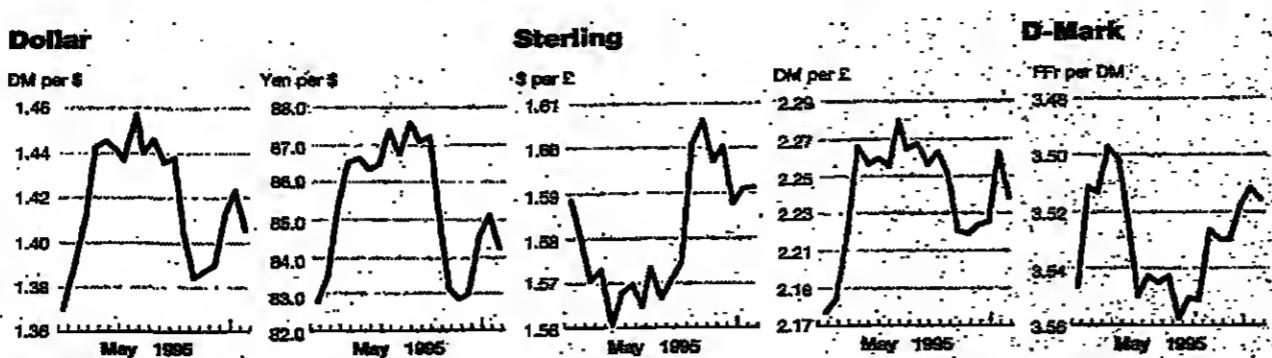
In the UK the September short sterling contract rose to 93.22 from 93.10.

Elsewhere, there were moves in interest rates from the Canadians and Spaniards. In Canada the target range for the call loan rate was cut to 7.25-7.75 per cent from 7.5-8 per cent. In Spain the central bank raised its official rate by 75 basis points to 9.25 per cent to combat inflation.

Sterling was a loser in the

gyrations surrounding the dollar. The trade weighted index finished at 84 from 84.8.

In terms of the struggle for the soul of the dollar, yesterday would have to be scored a draw. The sharp fall after the release of the jobs report can



Source: Datamann

readily be cited by dollar bears as evidence that the essentially unpromising backdrop of slowing growth and falling interest rates lies ahead.

And, as events of recent weeks have made clear, the dollar and US bond markets appear now to have decisively uncoupled. If it is good for bonds, it is bad for the dollar.

Bulls, however, can cite the dollar's impressive recovery yesterday afternoon as evidence of changed sentiment in the market. Mr Malcolm Barr, economist at Chemical Bank in

London, said the intervention by central banks had served to remind markets that even if it had reasons to sell the dollar, it remained basically cheap, with limited further downside.

Mr Steve Hannah, head of research at IBB International in London, said the payrolls report had "radically altered the fundamental position from where it was only a week ago." He said this probably meant the dollar would re-test its previous lows.

The dominant market view is that even if this does occur,

there will not be much momentum behind such a move, with most of the dollar's fall believed to be behind it. Mr Hannah said it appeared that the Fed had known about the short jobs report ahead of the intervention exercise. If so, this devalued it because it made it appear more a reactive move, and less the strategic shift in policy which some commentators believed it to be.

Mr Markus Lusser, president of the Swiss National Bank, provided a reminder of how controversial intervention remains when he told a Los Angeles audience that "central banks have grown increasingly sceptical about the short-term exchange rate management." SNB was one of the banks participating in the intervention on Wednesday.

The Bank of England provided UK money markets with £775m at established rates and £130m late assistance after forecasting a £900m daily shortage. Three month LIBOR firmed to 6% per cent from 6.25 per cent.

WORLD INTEREST RATES										
MONEY RATES		INTEREST RATES								
Jun 2	Over night	One month	Three months	Six months	One year	Two years	Five years	One decade	One month	Rate
Belgium	4.8	4.6	4.9	5.2	5.4	7.2	7.9	4.00	4.00	
week ago	4.15	4.05	5	5.6	5.8	7.4	8.0	4.00	4.00	
France	7.1	7.4	7.6	7.4	6.6	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	
week ago	7.0	7.5	7.5	7.6	6.6	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	
Germany	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	
week ago	4.15	4.15	4.15	4.15	4.15	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	
Ireland	6.8	6.6	6.8	6.8	6.8	7.2	7.2	6.25	6.25	
week ago	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	7.2	7.2	6.25	6.25	
Italy	10.4	10.8	10.8	10.8	11	11	11	10.25	10.25	
week ago	10.4	10.8	10.8	10.8	10.8	11	11	10.25	10.25	
Netherlands	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	
week ago	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	
Switzerland	2.7	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	
week ago	2.7	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	
US	8	8	8	8	8	8.25	8.25	8.25	8.25	
week ago	8	8	8	8	8	8.25	8.25	8.25	8.25	
Japan	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	
week ago	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	

LIBOR Interest rates are offered for \$100,000 quoted by the market by four reference banks.

Mid rates are shown for the domestic Money Rates, US CDs, ECU & GDR United Depositary CDs.

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WORLD STOCK MARKETS

INDICES

	Jun 2	Jun 1	May 31	High	1995	Low	
Argentina							
General (29/12/77)	Rs 15167.12	15303.84	16531.19	271	9831.93	93	
Australia							
All Ordinaries (1/1/80)	2065.7	2021.0	2015.5	2077.50	95	1623.30	82
All Mining (1/1/80)	881.8	890.4	888.8	952.50	194	785.30	82
Austria							
Credit Aktien (30/12/84)	366.43	363.41	381.41	395.42	271	350.32	30/3
Tradek Index (2/1/81)	1052.82	1046.25	1034.89	1095.31	271	934.93	30/3
Belgium							
IBEX 20 (1/1/91)	1457.48	1460.26	1454.38	1488.74	13/5	1271.53	93
Brazil							
Bovespa (29/12/83)	R\$ 37736.0	37206.0	43190.00	271	21352.00	9/3	
Canada							
Mutual Minis-4 (1975)	C\$ 4315.01	4310.77	4326.07	18/1	3885.83	1/3	
Composite-4 (1975)	C\$ 4445.80	4448.80	4468.80	31/5	3881.47	30/1	
Portfolio 55 (1/1/83)	C\$ 2180.37	2180.37	2184.32	25/6	1984.38	31/1	
Chile							
IGPA Gen (31/12/80)	(A) 6101.87	6078.4	6137.00	29/5	4678.80	93	
Denmark							
Copenhagen SE (31/1/83)	359.88	360.06	359.46	360.87	26/5	330.01	29/3
Finland							
HEX General (20/12/90)	1889.4	1885.8	1841.4	1940.38	10/1	1555.30	29/3
France							
SBF 250 (1/1/79/0)	1303.41	1288.42	1291.97	1322.30	12/5	1153.14	10/3
CAC 40 (31/1/20/7)	1971.30	1880.80	1947.95	2017.27	12/5	1721.80	13/3
Germany							
FAZ Aktien (31/1/25/8)	782.54	782.11	788.01	795.81	16/2	768.87	30/3
Commerzbank (1/1/25/3)	2246.5	2244.5	2202.5	2288.80	16/2	2018.70	30/3
DAX (30/12/87/7)	2136.26	2128.38	2092.17	2138.28	26	1910.98	29/3
Greece							
Athens SE (31/12/80)	890.66	890.31	891.45	895.01	8/5	767.18	16/3
Hong Kong							
Hang Seng (31/7/64)	(A) 5559.74	5407.38	5558.74	5617	8/6	4867.93	23/1
India							
BSE Sens (16/7/79)	3384.99	3408.85	3351.48	3632.09	2/1	3015.07	2/3
Indonesia							
Jakarta Comp (10/5/82)	480.42	485.78	(A) 483.42	526		414.21	19/4
Ireland							
ISED Overall (4/1/88)	1950.34	1941.95	1928.11	1958.34	2/6	1813.58	29/1
Italy							
Salvo Comex Ital (1973)	526.19	532.81	534.83	550.54	10/2	397.88	23/3
MIS General (2/1/85)	880.00	1001.80	1004.00	1078.00	10/2	820.00	23/3
Japan							
Nikkei 225 (10/5/80)	15849.13	15894.57	15436.70	16723.98	2/1	15381.29	3/4
Nikkei 300 (1/10/82)	237.75	234.72	233.85	267.17	2/1	228.05	24/3

US INDICES

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WORLD STOCK MARKETS

AMERICA

Dow volatile on jobs data weakness

Wall Street

US shares were volatile yesterday morning as investors digested news of weaker-than-expected jobs data, writes *Lisa Bernstein* in New York.

Before the market opened, the labor department reported that non-farm jobs had fallen by 101,000 in May, which followed a 7,000 job decline in April. Economists had expected an increase of about 175,000 jobs.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell more than 42 points at the opening, while the more broadly traded Standard & Poor's 500 dropped nearly 4 points as investors worried that the weak economy would lead to lower-than-expected corporate earnings.

However, both indices later managed to climb momentarily into positive territory as lower prices brought a wave of buy-

ing.

Also helping support the market was increased speculation that the data might encourage the Federal Reserve to lower interest rates.

By 1pm Dow and the S & P had stabilised at modestly below Thursday's close: the Dow was down 16.26 to 4,456.49, and the S & P had slipped 0.31 to 1,581.15.

The American stock exchange composite lost 2.31 at 488.58. Volume on the NYSE came to 234m shares.

Cyclical stocks fell sharply. The Morgan Stanley index of cyclical shares was off 1.2 per cent and the Dow, which is heavy in economically sensitive companies, underperformed broader issues.

Declining cycicals in the Dow included Caterpillar, off 1.1% at \$59, Goodyear Tire & Rubber down 1% at \$42, Aluminum Company of America 1% at \$45, Du Pont 1% at

3667 and United Technologies 1% at \$76.

But bad news for cycicals was good for other companies. J.P. Morgan, the commercial bank, rose 51% at \$72.

Technology stocks were among the few to keep a strong positive tone as they continued to recover from the sharp losses posted on Tuesday.

The Pacific stock exchange technology index climbed 0.9 per cent. Applied Materials was 52% higher at \$324, Texas Instruments 2% at \$128.93 and Intel 2% at \$117.

New ratings helped boost the shares of some companies in spite of the turbulence elsewhere.

Ligand Pharmaceutical jumped 5% at \$74 after Bear Stearns began coverage of the company with an "attractive" rating, and Cephalon gained 5% at \$111 after Farnam Selz began covering the company with a "buy" rating.

Latin America

Sao Paulo jumped 4.5 per cent in moderate mid-session trading on news that the oil workers strike would soon be settled.

The Bovespa index was up 1.71% to 39,453 by 1pm in turnover of \$217.2m (\$204.1m).

The oil strike began on May 3 and had caused severe shortages of fuel in the country.

The end of the stoppage boosted Petrobras, the oil monopoly, its preference shares rising 6.7 per cent to R\$9.98 by noon while the common shares jumped 7.7 per cent to R\$9.99.

MEXICO CITY opened sharply higher in early trade as buying, which had started in Telmex late on Thursday, continued.

The IPC index was up 23.52 or 1.2 per cent at 2,035.32 by midday, adding to Thursday's gain of 3.5 per cent. Telmex

saw its L shares gain 2.2 per cent.

Paribas Capital Markets upgraded the telecommunications company to short-term buy from hold on Thursday.

Buenos Aires had recouped some of Thursday's losses by midday with the Merval index up 10.20 or 2.4 per cent at 428.84.

Canada

Toronto responded to yesterday's quarter-point cut in several Canadian banks' prime lending rates, the banking sector index rose by almost one third to recover to the market in the 12 months to April 1995. The European pharmaceuticals sector rose by more than 40 per cent compared to the FTSE All-Industry index over the same period.

The force that knocked shares off balance over recent weeks came from an unexpected source: forecasts that interest rate rises may have come to an end.

The rationale is simple. Lower interest rates mean higher economic growth. But drug company profits are relatively immune to the tides of economic fortune. People need medicines whatever their ability to buy cars.

So investors sense that industries such as engineering and leisure, the cyclical businesses whose profits tend to rise and fall with the economy, are a better bet than health-care.

MILAN was generally featureless, ending a week that had seen very little corporate activity. The Mibet index lost 8 to 10.61, and the Comit 6.62 to 623.15, up 1.6 per cent on the week. Turnover was low at 1,000.

Activity was inhibited further as investors awaited an announcement of Fiat's 1994 results which were released after the close. The shares were unchanged at L6,350.

Written and edited by William Cochrane and John Pitt

SOUTH AFRICA

Industrial shares shrugged off the weak US economic data to end up in steady demand. The overall index was 33.9 better at 5,526.3, the industrial index added 36.4 to 6,966.5 and the gold index was up 5 to 1,407.9.

Active issues included De Beers, up 50 cents to R54.

Shares changing hands in the afternoon.

Volvo rose SKr0.50 to SKr134.50 but denied, however, that it was planning to sell its 27.5 per cent stake in Pharmacia which achieved a year's intra-day high of SKr155, before closing up SKr5.50 at SKr135.50.

HELSINKI featured a 10 per cent rise to FM24.00 in SKOP after the state controlled bank said it was selling half of its assets to Svenska Handelsbanken. The Hext index rose 5.6 to 1,669.4, little better than flat after a volatile week.

COPENHAGEN saw Tele Danmark close DKr3 higher at DKr314 after the telecoms group bid for 27 per cent of the Czech state telephone monopoly, SPT. The KFX index ended 0.7 to 99.05.

AMSTERDAM's AEX index dropped nearly 5 points in the afternoon before closing 1.85 lower at 423.10, up 1.5 per cent on the week. Dolar sensitive, or US listed stocks weakened with Unilever down F11.20 at F11.10, and the retailer, Ahoy, F11.10 lower at F11.30.

BADRIBUD ended higher after the Bank of Spain lifted inter-

est rates by three-quarters of a percentage point, the general index closing 0.80 better at 272.72, up 0.8 per cent on the week, although dealers said that the rate rise had little impact.

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EUROPE

Senior bourses move on interest rate hopes

Bourses had no way of keeping up with the Dow yesterday, as it ricocheted from heavy losses to gains and back again during the European afternoon, writes *Our Markets Staff*.

FRANKFURT accentuated the positive, watching the rise in US Treasuries, extrapolating a drop in interest rates and lifting rate sensitive stocks like the banks, particularly the Bavarians, and utilities.

The Dax index rose 0.88 to a new 1,995 closing high of 2,136.26 on the session and, ultimately, lost little in the post-hour where it finished at an intra-indicated 2,132.72, up 3.2 per cent on the week.

Turnover eased from DM4.4m to DM7.2m. BayernLB was DM10.50 higher at DM427 and DEB10 helped utility stocks stay in the limelight with a rise of DM5.30 to DM56.1.

PARIS was lifted by hopes of a decline in interest rates among continental European countries. The CAC-40 index ended up 10.50 at 1,971.30 in turnover DM1.7m, for a week's gain of 2.7 per cent.

Interest-rate sensitive stocks, particularly the financials, were fuelled with a rise of 0.51 to 1,581.50.

Other stocks heavily influenced by dollar movements showed a more mixed reaction: Elf Aquitaine fell FF11.20 to FF10.70, Total gained 40 cents

to FF12.10, L'Oréal fell FF7 to FF12.00 and Michelin FF1.70 to FF22.40.

Renault, up to FF11.80 at FF11.70, had no comment on a rumour which resurfaced regarding the sale of its remaining 7 per cent stake in Volvo of Sweden.

CarnaudMetalbox eased 40 cents to FF12.60 at FF12.50 after announcing that it expected difficult trading conditions in 1995. Pechiney followed suit, losing FF1.50 to FF12.6.

STOCKHOLM looked at Pharmacia and Volvo as rumours circulated that the car group was selling its stake in the drugs company. The Aftersvärlden General index added 3.40 to 1,609.80, up 1.7 per cent on the week. Turnover was FF1.20.

Other stocks heavily influenced by dollar movements showed a more mixed reaction: Elf Aquitaine fell FF11.20 to FF10.70, Total gained 40 cents to FF12.10, L'Oréal fell FF7 to FF12.00 and Michelin FF1.70 to FF22.40.

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LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE: Dealings

Details of business done shown below have been taken with consent from last Thursday's Stock Exchange Official List and should not be reproduced without permission.

Details relate to those securities not included in the FT Share Information Services.

Unless otherwise indicated prices are in pence. The prices are those at which the business was done in the 24 hours up to 5pm on Thursday and, subject to the Stock Exchange Ticker-tape system, they are not in order of execution but in ascending order which denotes the day's highest and lowest dealings.

For those securities in which no business was recorded in Thursday's Official List the latest recorded business in the three previous days is given with the relevant date.

Securities which are not regulated by the International Stock Exchange of the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland Ltd.

† Bargain at special prices. ♦ Bargain done the previous day.

British Funds, etc

Treasury 13% Stk 2000/03 - £125.50

Exchequer 10% Stk 2005 - £117.00

Corporation and County Stocks

Locality City 10% 1/2% Red Stk 2005 - £130

Manchester Corp 4% Corp Ind Stk - £82

Nottingham Corp 3% Crt (Int) - £20

Swansea/City of 13% 1/2% Red Stk 2008 - £134.50 (20Myrs)

UK Public Boards

Metropolitan Water Metropolitan Water 3% A Stk 2003 - £38 (20Myrs)

Port of London Authority 3% Port of London A Stk 2003 - 120% - £20

Port of London Authority 3% Stk 1999 - £24.50 (20Myrs)

Foreign Stocks, Bonds, etc (coupons payable in London)

Abbey National Sterling Capital PLC 5% Subord Gtd Stk 2004/5 (Var) - £92.50

Abbey National Treasury PLC 5% Corp Ind Stk 2004/5 (Var) - £92.50 (20Myrs)

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Weekend FT



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NEXT WEEK
The improvised world of the new university

Schliemann's fantastic exploits

But did they really happen? Nigel Spivey weighs up the evidence for and against the great archaeologist – or great liar

For Heinrich Schliemann, the man who captured the imagination of the western world, with his amazing discovery of Homer's Troy and ancient Greek treasures, the lying began early. In 1851, he was a young man in search of a fortune; recently arrived in California to join the great gold rush. On May 4, when the city of San Francisco was destroyed by a fire, Schliemann described in his diary how he escaped from the Union Hotel in the Plaza only minutes before it was swallowed by flames.

He climbed Telegraph Hill, where, he says, he stood like Nero over the burning city. "It was a frightful but sublime view, in fact the grandest spectacle I ever enjoyed."

The fire was blamed on certain "French incendiaries", and Schliemann describes how "many a poor French charr was thrown headlong into the flames" by enraged San Franciscans. At dawn he descended to the smouldering remains, where he found Americans were "laughing and joking among themselves", as they set about instant reconstruction. "I saw them in many places at 6 o'clock in the morning busy to lay on the still hot ashes of the former buildings the foundations for the new ones."

Among his many accom-

plishments, Schliemann shows himself to be an excellent reporter, except for one thing: he was not there.

Several years ago, Professor David Traill of California University demonstrated that Schliemann was unlikely to have been in San Francisco on the night of the fire, and that his diary entry was cobbled from a report in the Sacramento Daily Union newspaper. If Schliemann could deceive his own diary, Traill said, why should anyone believe the accounts of his famous archaeological discoveries – of Priam's city and treasure at Troy, and the grave of great Agamemnon at Mycenae?

When Traill began to publish investigations casting doubt upon Schliemann's truthfulness, scholars sympathetic to the archaeologist deplored it as a campaign of unwarranted persecution. Schliemann, they said, may have been a larger than life character with a weakness for autobiographical romance.

Most people now agree that he made up the tale of how, in his youth, he was shown an illustration of Troy's epic fall and dreamed of excavating the lost city. And other parts of the Schliemann legend are acknowledged fantasy, including his descriptions of the part his young wife took at key moments of excavation.

But David Traill is not con-

vinced. In a new study entitled *Schliemann of Troy: Treasure and Deceit*, he extends the charges. This serious attempt to discredit Schliemann is published by John Murray, the very firm which the great archaeologist (or liar) once used to popularise his excavations.

Schliemann's diaries, as Traill shows, contain several episodes which mark him as a self-aggrandising fabulist to

Despite his previous assurances to the Turks, Schliemann smuggled the treasure out of the country

rival Walter Mitty. He invented interviews with American presidents, although later, when he had become a celebrated archaeologist, he did actually dine with British prime minister Gladstone (a fellow enthusiast for Homeric verse).

Traill shows how, in his duplicitous business dealings, Schliemann habitually sold others short, and how he lied to achieve American citizenship and a divorce from his

Russian first wife.

Later when the fame of his discoveries was ringing through Europe's capitals, Schliemann claimed that his money-making had but one end: to find and excavate Homer's Troy.

Traill tells a very different story. With his capital safely amassed, but his marriage collapsing, Schliemann travelled for pleasure, much as any other grand tourist of the time. He commissioned a young Greek wife for himself mainly because he admired the manner in which Greek women worshipped their husbands, not because he needed a helpmate in the search for Greek heroes of old. And he came across Troy almost by accident.

For his tour of Greece in 1868, he carefully followed the instructions of the *John Murray Handbook for Travellers*, until he met a German in Athens who had been exploring the Troad area of western Turkey in search of ancient Troy. Schliemann then got the bug, and travelled there himself.

He met an American vice-consul, Frank Calvert; who had for several years been

convinced that a large mound,

locally called Hisarlik, was the site of Troy. Calvert had even

bought a part of the mound in

order to test his theory by trial

excavation trenches. And Calvert, in Traill's narrative, played the innocent lamb to Schliemann's wolf.

Trusting this evidently naive but enthusiastic visitor, Calvert allowed Schliemann the benefit of all his researches.

Two years later, Schliemann was back. With a gang of workmen, but no official permission, he began to dig. He later claimed that it was he, not Calvert, who had first identified Hisarlik as Troy.

Schliemann, despite his mastery of languages, showed little diplomatic respect for Turkish officials. But his money, and pledges not to remove any finds from the country, gained him access.

Hisarlik was duly excavated over three years, and a large structure was identified as the palace of Priam, Homer's last king of Troy.

But did this treasure ever belong to Priam? Traill believes that the objects were originally not found together, that they may not come from the Hisarlik site, and indeed that they may not be entirely ancient at all.

These are suspicions based on evidence more circumstantial than forensic. For "thanks to his training in book-keeping", Schliemann was highly adept at being economical with the truth, Traill says.

However, significant discrepancies survive in Schliemann's own excavation records, and it is known that mock antique jewellery was being fabricated in the area. Is it possible that

This, for Schliemann, was "Priam's Treasure". Despite

his previous assurances to the Turks, Schliemann smuggled it out of the country before making it public. He eventually paid some small recompense for it, and gave it to a museum named in his honour in Berlin.

This "Priam's Treasure" was later seized as war booty by the Russians in 1945 – and it has been in Moscow ever since, with a highly uncertain international legal status.

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This "Priam's Treasure" was later seized as war booty by the Russians in 1945 – and it has been in Moscow ever since, with a highly uncertain international legal status.

But did this treasure ever belong to Priam? Traill believes that the objects were originally not found together, that they may not come from the Hisarlik site, and indeed that they may not be entirely ancient at all.

These are suspicions based on evidence more circumstantial than forensic. For "thanks to his training in book-keeping", Schliemann was highly adept at being economical with the truth, Traill says.

However, significant discrepancies survive in Schliemann's own excavation records, and it is known that mock antique jewellery was being fabricated in the area. Is it possible that

This, for Sch

PERSPECTIVES

Minding Your Own Business

Tour company's sporting chance

An official travel agent for the rugby world cup began life in a grocer's shop. **Grania Langdon-Down** reports

John Hall has down a third of a million miles in the past 18 months, commuting between the UK and South Africa.

Now, as rugby union fans enjoy the world cup, his travel company is beginning to reap the rewards of that labour in an operation that could add \$5m to its annual turnover.

In South Africa, Gullivers Sports Travel set up a joint venture with a South African travel firm which was subsequently appointed the official tour operator for the rugby world cup, now under way.

And in the UK, it has organised tours for 2,500 fans. The first contingent of 400 left on May 23; the remainder leave on Thursday for the final two weeks of the tournament.

For Hall, the 47-year-old chairman of Gullivers, the worry now is whether South Africa's underdeveloped tourist industry will cope and whether the country's measures to protect supporters, given serious crime problems, prove effective.

If all goes well, there is the chance of an even bigger prize in the future. "Cape Town is bidding for the 2004 Olympics. If everything goes well and we manage to get the games, we would be very well positioned," he said.

It is a far cry from the early 1970s when Hall, then 22 and a county level rugby player, and John Maycock, a friend, were running an outside catering business from the back of a falling grocery shop in Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire.

They decided to buy the shop for £5,000, borrowing half from Hall's mother and half from the bank next door, at the same time taking responsibility for its £11,000 debts.

Hall said: "It had been running six monthly accounts for lords and ladies, delivering all round the Cotswolds. We

scrapped all that, chucked out a lot of lines that weren't making money, and brought in fine wines, spirits and special foods to make it more of a delicatessen which married well with the catering business.

"We ran it like that for about a year but by then we had our backs to the walls with all the debts we had taken on. Then in 1972, the lights went out with the miners strike. I noticed we had run out of candles and when I tried to buy some more, where was out of stock."

"Then I found a candle factory in Algeria and snapped up the lot. We had to ship all 40 tons across the Mediterranean and then truck it to the UK – every day, we were worried the

Buses from Zimbabwe and Namibia have been hired to cope with the numbers

strike would end."

He described the candles as "the worst ever made" but they managed to sell them all and made £10,000 in 10 days. "It took a great weight off us," he said.

The partners scrapped the grocery business and, after considering opening a record shop, decided to run a travel agency – Gullivers Travel. They brought in Hall's sister Rosie, who was working for a travel business in Newcastle, as well as the media, sponsors and teams.

Hall said: "After the 1991 world cup, our profit was £1.9m. It is difficult to put a figure on what the profit will be this year but the tournament has added about £5m to our turnover of about £10m."

Preparing for this year's world cup began several months before South Africa's elections in April 1994, with Hall making 27 trips to South Africa in all. The company formed GulliverJet Sports Travel jointly with the Cape Town-based company Indo Jet Travel, with David as managing director. This partnership has now been "extended permanently".

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John Hall outside the headquarters of Gullivers Sports Travel in Tewkesbury

tickets in South Africa, while Gullivers, as one of the UK's official travel agents, has promoted the rugby tours and sold packages. GulliverJet was given exclusive rights to handle the sale of all 19,000 match tickets allocated to overseas supporters visiting South Africa for the world cup.

Hall said: "We went in well before the elections which was the risk. If they had gone wrong, the tournament could have been moved, which would have meant a huge upheaval.

"I had forecast we would be

taking about 1,000 from the UK but the interest was enormous with England winning the Five Nations Championship. By late March, we had run out of hotels and flights."

The cost of the full 4-week tour is about £4,000, taking in nine games. The more popular 24-week trip costs £2,945, including five games from quarter finals to the final in Johannesburg on June 24.

More than 50 people, including former international players such as Gareth Chilcott, Phil Bennett and Donal Lenihan, are travelling with Gullivers as tour hosts. The company has also held meetings with local police and hoteliers, has had to hire buses from Zimbabwe and Namibia to cope with the number of supporters, and some of the 45 staff based at the company headquarters in Tewkesbury have been to Cape Town to help the 60 GulliverJet employees.

"Up to 1992, we were involved in travel, had about a dozen pubs, two employment agencies, an irrigation company, three undertakers, some florists and a transport and warehousing company.

"We sold the undertakers and florists, dumped the irrigation company and kept just one pub. We kept the two employment agencies because they specialise in supplying HGV drivers which goes well with the transport business.

"I have learned that you must specialise – you can't be a jack of all trades. You also have to be 'hands on' – trying to run a business at a distance is a recipe for disaster," he said.

Future plans include arranging trips to South Africa at Christmas for the England cricket tour; the company has been appointed the official tour operator by the Football Association for Euro 96, the biggest

sporting event in the UK since the 1966 soccer world cup; and it will be organising tours to the 1997 rugby world cup in Hong Kong just before China takes over the colony.

Hall, married with three children, said the business, now based in a 16th century manor in Tewkesbury, had grown "organically" through its profitability. About two years ago, they decided to consolidate their core businesses.

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The Nature of Things Closing in on cancer

Cancer patients often ask themselves "Why me?" – particularly if they have avoided smoking and other carcinogenic activities. Recent research shows that the answer often lies in their genes.

More than 50 cancer-causing human genes are already known. Now David Scott and colleagues at the Paterson Institute for Cancer Research, Manchester, have discovered that about one in 10 of the world's population inherits a general susceptibility to cancer – and they have developed a simple laboratory test to detect this genetic predisposition, based on the sensitivity of cells to radiation damage.

The Paterson test could be used eventually to identify people who would benefit from cancer screening programmes. More immediately, it could enable radiotherapists to tailor treatment more closely to patients' requirements.

This is one of several unexpected findings from a five-year research programme, funded by the British nuclear industry, to investigate the way radiation causes cancer.

The original aim of the £3m programme was to discover whether any unknown mechanism could account for high levels of cancer among nuclear workers and people living near nuclear plants. On that score, the results were a scientific disappointment and a relief to the industrial sponsors – because the 40 research projects came up with no significant new link between radiation and cancer.

But the programme, which is run at arm's length from the sponsors, has produced a lot of valuable evidence about the causation, diagnosis and treatment of cancer.

The Paterson group set out to investigate variations in the vulnerability of cells to radiation damage, starting from a previous observation at the US National Cancer Institute that cells from people with rare inherited tumours showed unusually severe damage when irradiated.

The UK researchers devised their own system for testing the sensitivity of genetic material in cells to radiation. They not only confirmed the American result but extended them to the general population.

About 10 per cent of healthy individuals show excess radiosensitivity in the cell test.

When the researchers tested a random sample of 50 breast cancer patients before treatment, they were surprised to find radiosensitivity in 40 per cent. This may mean that a substantial proportion of breast cancer involves some genetic predisposition.

Two "breast cancer genes" identified recently are thought to account for between 5 and 10 per cent of cases. The Paterson group

son research suggests that there are many other genes which lead to a significant increase in risk.

The next step will be to investigate the extent to which radiosensitivity is inherited, by studying twins.

The research could produce a simple test for cancer predisposition, though many people would be reluctant to take it until medicine has advanced further. Eventually, however, it may be possible to use "radiosensitivity" as a genetic screen to identify people with cancer genes, followed by further tests to uncover specific genetic defects – and then treatment to correct them.

A more immediately useful idea is to test patients' radiosensitivity as soon as cancer has been diagnosed. This would enable radiotherapists to match radiation doses more closely to individual patients – reducing exposure to avoid excessive side-effects in people who are extremely sensitive and raising the dose to kill more cancer cells in those who are more tolerant.

Besides the Paterson work, the research programme has come up with two other important conclusions.

■ Eric Wright of the Medical Research Council's Radiobiology Unit near Oxford discovered an unexpected pattern of cell damage by alpha particles – the form of radiation emitted by artificial plutonium and natural radon gas.

Most cells die quickly if a single alpha particle passes through them but survivors show "chromosomal instability". They seem normal but, as the cells divide, genetic abnormalities appear unpredictably among future generations.

Susceptibility to this form of damage varies tremendously between individuals.

■ Mel Greaves of the Institute of Cancer Research, London, found that lymphoid cells, the type involved in most childhood leukaemia, are supremely sensitive to ionising radiation. They are almost always killed by a single alpha particle.

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continues to work on this.

Most forms of adult leukaemia are harder to treat because the cells have by then undergone genetic mutations which remove their ultrasensitivity to radiation. The research suggests that, in the future, one avenue of treatment might be to restore their sensitivity by genetic engineering of the cells.

As a whole, the nuclear-funded programme illustrates the way public concern can stimulate research, with unexpected – and potentially very valuable – results.

Clive Cookson

Schliemann's fantastic exploits

Continued from Page 1

for the sake of the academic reputation a self-educated man so desperately craved, Schliemann "invented" Priam's gold?

Schliemann played the treasures hard: photographs of his young Greek wife Sophia decked out in Trojan jewels attest to clever marketing of a find that caused as much popular excitement as academic interest.

A few dissenting voices were vehemently put down by Schliemann in the European press. But he hardly allowed debate over Troy to develop. In 1876, thwarted by the Turks' understandable reluctance to readmit him to the Trojan site, Schliemann turned to Mycenae in the Greek Peloponnese.

And it happened again. After a season of more or less mundane excavation, there was an explosion of gold: many kilograms of it, worked exquisitely into vessels, sceptres, ornamental armour and masks.

Despite the popular legend, Schliemann never sent a telegram to the King of Greece declaring that he had stared upon the face of Agamemnon. But he happily broadcast that the tombs at Mycenae included the grave of Agamemnon, who, according to legend, had commanded the Greeks at Troy and returned to Mycenae to be murdered by his wife Clytemnestra and her lover Aegisthus.

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Lunch with the FT Essex lady – doubly formidable

Nigel Spivey enjoys a little guarded gossip with Lady Butler

A t Le Talborth, near Dedham, on the Essex-Suffolk borders, lunch was simple for cancer patients, though many would be reluctant to eat. Eventually, however, it may be possible to use sensitivity as a probe to identify people's genes, followed by a test to uncover genetic defects – and treatment to correct them. The more immediately sensitive is to test patients' sensitivity as soon as it has been diagnosed. This would enable radiologists to match radiation doses to individual patients, reducing exposure to aggressive side-effects. The are extremely safe, raising the dose to cancer cells in the more tolerant.

Rab Butler and I were seated cosy upstairs, under the gables of the half-timbered house which this restaurant occupies. The principal dining room meanwhile was filled with men in suits with a sprinkling of wives or women in suits too. These we supposed to be the cream of Essex entrepreneurs: they had gathered, we learned, to listen to Sir Leon Brittan, Europe's trade commissioner. So they gathered, and waited. And waited.

Initially fascinated by the commotion Sir Leon's absence was creating, Lady Butler and I grew distracted by our meal. But the cabaret beneath our window continued, for Sir Leon, like Godot, never appeared.

"How terribly sad!" cried Lady Butler. "Kings and princesses, castles, marvellous sailing adventures – too privileged? How can they deprive the young of all those delights?"

A little later (with a proper frown): "Why are so many clever people socialists?" And later still: "I don't much care for Poussin, I think it's because of Antony Blunt." (The traitor was a great Poussin expert.)

I reminded Lady Butler that her late husband had been considered "too clever" to be prime minister. For the same reason, he was such a success-

ful head of house at Trinity College, Cambridge. Of the memory of her beloved Rab, Lady Butler remains a passionate curator. She is currently compiling an anthology of tributes to him – "the greatest prime minister we never had", as it is said – and it appears that even Conservatives who hardly knew him revere the thwarted Rab.

But what of the present prime minister?

"Darling John Major. Why are people so beastly to him? He's simply the most marvellous man. I write to him whenever they get too beastly. Last week I saw him at Number 10 and I told him I prayed for him every night. We just can't afford to lose him and I'm so afraid that we shall."

We gossiped in that vein,

PERSPECTIVES



Enchanting, regal and informed: Lady Butler told John Major she prayed for him every night Trevor Humphries

and others. And the one

instruction Lady Butler gave to me was not to write down our gossip. It would, she said, be too much of a bore. A man from The Spectator had come last year, transcribed her gossip, and published it.

"Was it libelous? Revealing?" I asked.

"Good gracious. If only it was. My dear, it was simply so boring. I went straight back to my Shakespeare and Wodehouse."

I shall not repeat her views on diverse prime ministers since the war, though her plummy imitation of Edward Heath was memorable.

And it is difficult to relay the quality of her conversation without making Lady Butler sound rather too much like a clone of Lady Bracknell. But, I

thought, how lucky Mr Major

is to have her prayers every night. Essex girl is quite a phenomenon: Essex lady is a doubly formidable being.

She dipped a teaspoon into my sticky toffee pudding. Just a taste, to see if it matched the version she was used to from her own cook. The gathering of the local entrepreneurs began to break up below us.

Lady Butler peered down at the departing suits, some distinctly tending to waddle back to their commodious cars.

"My dear," she said. "They are the pioneers in Europe, I rather fear for our future. But poor men, to come all this way for nothing, I do hope they will watch out for the Germans."

"As," she added. "I tell our marvellous John Major."

One man's mission to spread the news

Simon Holberton asks Jimmy Lai about his newspaper

For a man who was smuggled to Hong Kong in the bottom of a boat when he was 12, and put to work at the age of 13, Jimmy Lai has not done too badly for himself.

Now 46, he controls a personal fortune of more than \$300m – the result of exploiting two very good ideas. The first was Giordano, a casual wear retailer; the second was Next, a news weekly magazine.

Now Jimmy Lai is about to make the biggest bet of his life. He is willing to lose up to half his fortune to see if he can make a success of a new daily newspaper in Hong Kong. Not only is the Chinese-language market for news entertainment crowded, therefore making market entry costly and difficult, but with Hong Kong's transfer to China just two years away, Lai's overtly political purpose makes his bet all the more interesting.

Lai, who describes himself as "an impulsive, aggressive and impatient entrepreneur", has called the newspaper Pinggoh Yat (Apple Daily) and it will be launched on June 20, not with the traditional party and banqueting but with the distribution of 300,000 red apples freshly imported from the US.

All publishers of new titles boast that theirs will do things the competition fails to do and Lai is no different: Apple Daily, he says, will print stories that others avoid.

"It will be an optimistic voice for people who are concerned about 1997," he says. "The closer we get to 1997 the more the uncertainty about the future will grow and the more people will want to know – that will be good for the newspaper."

Lai's purpose was political.

Tiananmen inspired my urge to participate in the historic opening of China, to deliver information to my fellow countrymen... I believe that if I work in the media I just don't stand a product, I sell freedom. But the result was another business success.

Next re-defined weekly news magazines in Hong Kong and

spawned imitators. Lai says it sells 180,000 copies a week and has a readership of 1m. Last year, he said, it produced profits after tax of HK\$100m.

Lai caused a sensation last summer when, in a weekly column he wrote for Next, he lambasted Li Peng, China's prime minister. Lai criticised Li Peng in colourful and provocative language for running away from western journalists on a visit to Germany and Switzerland; by his unseemly behaviour Li Peng had caused China to lose face, Lai wrote.

Beijing's response was swift: it closed a Giordano store in the Chinese capital and Lai was forced to step down as chairman of the company.

Far from being a chastening experience it has emboldened him. He believes the Communist party of China is a spent force – "I give it 10 years".

Moreover, he is unconcerned about the possibility of advertisers boycotting Apple Daily because of its political stance. If Apple is popular with readers, companies which want to reach a mass market will have to advertise in it.

Just over two weeks ago Hoog Kong will find out. As part of his marketing strategy, Lai is planning to give the paper away for at least the first month and possibly the first two months. He is promising advertisers a circulation of at least 200,000 a day and offering generous rebates if Apple falls below that number.

"A newspaper is a habitat more than anything else. To break this stickiness is very difficult; you need an incentive for them to do so. We can't promote the paper like everyone else; we don't have time. So, we have to lose money before we make money."

Lai says he has budgeted to lose HK\$400m in the first full year of publication and HK\$200m in the second year. "Hopefully after that we will be established in the market."

But only time will prove if Jimmy Lai is just a cock-eyed optimist or a shrewd strategist.



Jimmy Lai: cock-eyed optimist or shrewd strategist?

the decade had begun to conquer retail markets throughout east Asia.

The turning point in Lai's business career was the Tiananmen Square massacre on June 4 1989. In the aftermath, he decided to withdraw from the day-to-day management of Giordano – although he retained his 37 per cent interest in the company – and switch to publishing. With characteristic speed he launched a weekly news magazine called Next in the spring of 1990.

The purpose was political. Tiananmen inspired my urge to participate in the historic opening of China, to deliver information to my fellow countrymen... I believe that if I work in the media I just don't stand a product, I sell freedom.

Apple Daily will also be stanch in the defence of Hong Kong's freedoms, he says. "I'm just determined to fight for the freedom we've enjoyed for the past 150 years. If I don't stand firm on the protection of the liberty I've enjoyed, I will have been disloyal."

Lai is a formidable autodidact. He received no formal

SELLING AT AUCTION?



Michael Cowley, Director, Phillips Furniture Department. The 17th century Augsburg ivory, lapis lazuli and picasso desk cabinet pictured is to be sold at auction in London on 13 June 1995

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FOOD AND DRINK



Search for a spine-tingler

Jancis Robinson investigates whether South Africa is exporting seriously fine wine

The recent flood of South African wines on to the global market has been one of the most visible effects of the country's long-awaited return to the international fold. It has taken hardly any time at all for South African wine to make that leap in consumer perception from "Don't Buy" to "Right-On Buy".

Partly thanks to generous direct subsidy for wine exports - as high as 18 per cent until quite recently but now down to about 14 per cent of the export price - the cheapest South African wines available abroad can seem very cheap.

Britain has lapped up crisp, if relatively neutral, Colombar and Chenin for less than £3 a bottle, displacing similar Vin de Pays des Côtes de Gascogne from Armagnac country.

But, having been impressed by one or two special older bottles carried out of South Africa by friends, I set out to find out whether an industry in which more than 80 per cent of wine is white and more than 85 per cent processed by cooperatives is exporting any seriously fine wine.

Wine producers and consumers in South Africa have suffered from long-term dearth of international yardstick wines and many openly yearn for informed judgments of their own products. There is a terrible temptation for British professionals, who are fortunate enough to taste a wide range of different wines, to climb on a high horse and pronounce.

Given Africa's size, the fact that it has made only a modest contribution to the international culinary Babel is surprising. With McDonald's in Moscow, fish and chips in the Cyclades and Chinese takeaways everywhere, expatriate cooking is as much part of modern life as indigestion.

Until the early 1970s, African food was a mystery to the rest of the world. *The African Cook-book* by Bea Sandler, published in about 1970, claimed to be the first cookery book about the

I have not yet visited the vineyards and cellars of the new South Africa. But producers there are clearly doing something right at the bottom end of the market: their wine exports to Britain have easily overtaken those of Chile and New Zealand. And none of their wines is absurdly overpriced.

Of (relatively) New World producers, the Californians were the first to show us that they could produce world-class wine. They have been joined quite recently by the Australians (whose *red torte* has been in making dependably attractive medium-priced wine).

The Chileans are now making lots of exuberant, but hardly subtle, inexpensive wine. While New Zealanders are wrestling with the small quantities they produce at inevitably fairly high prices.

I would say that the South Africans can offer great value cheap wine and increasingly good mid-range stuff, but are yet to make anything truly spine-tingling - even though one or two of them are starting to make some rather good Bordeaux-type reds and dry whites.

Cape Chardonnays have progressed rapidly past the overdone oak and tropical fruit stage (the latter aroma of malolactic fermentation seems the current craze). De Wetshof's well-priced range is widely available.

Bouchard Finlayson (1994 Kaaimansgat £2.49 from Bibendum, London NW1) and Hamilton Russell (about £8 from Averys of Bristol, Roberson of London WB, Tanners of Shrewsbury, and Selfridges) are

both making admirably subtle wines from some of the coolest vineyards on the Cape, as is Wilekraan 1993 (£6.99 from Bibendum).

Thelma Estate, whose Sauvignon Blanc 1994 is also good (though not as good as Milderbosch's from John Arnott Wines of London W11), produces a slightly richer, more punning style of Chardonnay at £3.99.

Wines from this fine estate are imported by Winecellars of London SW18 and their well-balanced

stage). Stockists from Carlton Tower on 0181-788 3365.

South Africa's prospects may well be slightly impaired by the confusing (to us) mix of languages encountered on labels.

French and Afrikaans are the languages used by descendants of Huguenot and Dutch settlers respectively. Then there is English and, on the label of Goya Kriekie 1995, Kung, the Bushman language. A clever marketing coup, this Cape white nouveau, £1.79 at Tesco, is now widely undercut in a range of own-label 1994s selling for less than £3.

This wine is just one of many South African whites in which Sauvignon and Chardonnay are merrily blended together, with no discernible ill-effects, however unusual the mixture elsewhere. Better value is Leopard Creek Chardonnay (at larger Tesco stores at £3.99).

Kanonkop is a thoroughly dependable name for red wine, available at Oddbins, Asda, and Safeway. Certainly its 1993 Photage is one of the most convincing examples of this South African wine specialty, a crossing of Pinot Noir and Cinsaut, bearing little relation to either.

Pinotages are full, fruity wines that can taste all too reminiscent of nail varnish if not vinified and served with great care (coolish in warm weather). Kanonkop's Paul Sauer 1991 blend (£10.99 from Oddbins) is glorious - really well balanced and already delicious although clearly made for future drinking, too.

Many South African Cabernets are too aggressively minty for my palate, but may well suit devotees of that particular style, common in both Australian and California wines. Fredericksburg Cabernet Sauvignon Reserve 1990 (about £8 from Norman Goodfellow's of London W1) is flatter and impressive and Grangehurst's Cabernet Sauvignon 1992 (£7.99 from Bibendum) is warm, rich, full, and thoroughly modern.

South Africans are slowly realising that not all the best wine in the world is called Cabernet Sauvignon. I love Warwick Estate Cabernet Franc 1992 (about £9, stockists from Richards Walford on 01780-60451), but then I am a sucker for the crisp, clean appetising flavours of this variety. Stellenzicht's Block Series Merlot 1993 is great value (£4.99 from Oddbins).

Vriesenhoef's blended red Kallista (£7.05 from Harvey Nichols) is also impressive, being relatively discreet, attractively dry and well-balanced.

But South Africa's most interesting wine to anyone with a sense of history is the resurrected Constantia, whose reputation was once so great that it was used to console Jane Austen's forsaken heroines.

Now called Vin de Constance and sold in half bottles by Lay & Wheeler at £11.25 for the 1989, this sweet white is full, rich, and is 14 per cent alcohol, thanks to the drying of the finest Muscat grapes. Here is proof that South Africa belongs in the greater world of wine.

No room for despondency

Giles MacDonogh talks to an optimistic German-born winegrower in the Cape

Hans Joachim Schreiber is one of those enviable men with a Croesus touch. He started out in the chaos of post-war Germany in the black-market economy unwittingly created by the Allies after the collapse of the old Reichsmark.

From dealing in cigarettes he proceeded to a more conventional training in banking, rising to the board of the Dresden Bank. Since then he has diversified considerably. Much of his business activity these days takes place in Asia.

Work for the bank took him to South Africa during the days of apartheid. Having tested the water with a few property deals, in 1985 he bought Neethlingshof, a run-down wine estate in Stellenbosch in Cape Province.

Later he added the neighbouring estate of Stellenzicht to his land holdings. Now he has more than 300 hectares of prime Cape vineyard.

Schreiber has no illusions about the possibilities of making money from wine. A friend told him early on: a vineyard is more about lifestyle than investment. He has sunk a lot of cash into the land; so far he has seen no profit to speak of. But the wines are good, especially the Sauvignon Blanc and the Chardonnay.

Like other foreign investors in South Africa, Schreiber has watched the events of the past few years with considerable interest. He is proud of his visions for the future.

He compares South Africa favourably to Germany in 1945: 80 per cent of Germany's cities were destroyed but a booming economy rose from the ashes. South Africa is in much better shape. "There is no room for gloom and doom," he says.

Still the white vineyard owners are jumpy. The new government has yet to clarify its position on the estates. The wisest landowners, Schreiber included, have tried to make provision for the moment when the long-awaited social revolution becomes a reality.

They have begun by clearing away a few notorious abuses, such as the "dop" whereby the vineyard workers were partly paid in rotgut wine. Schreiber and one or two others have rebuilt their labourers' cottages giving them pleasant little dwellings in a comedy neo-Dutch style.

Schreiber thinks that there is a big potential market for wine in South Africa. He sees the evolution as similar to Germany's when sweet wines of the Liebfraumilch/Ruländer ilk were drunk as sugar substitutes in the lean years after the war.

Once poorer local black people have had their fill of sweet wine, thinks Schreiber, they will go over to the Sauvignon Blancs and Chardonnays which are lapped up by the better-off whites of the Cape.

Nelson Mandela might be a case in point. The president turned up at the dinner given by Schreiber to celebrate his 10 years at Neethlingshof in April. Mandela told a characteristically self-deprecating story about his first experiences of wine in prison.

By this stage in his long captivity, Mandela had won the right to entertain visitors. He needed wine and asked the waiter to procure it for him. The wine he ordered was a notoriously bad, sweet wine which came in some crocks under the name of "Liebe Stein". The waiter was not impressed: "Look, no civilised man drinks sweet wine. Civilised people drink dry wine."

Mandela acquiesced. He had the waiter buy both sweet and dry wines. The waiter predicted that the journalists and politicians would all drink the dry wine. This is what happened. The waiter added smugly: "Please be civilised Mr Mandela."

Perhaps it was the old rebellious streak then, which made Mandela order a glass of Neethlingshof's sweetest wine when he proposed the toast to the estate at its birthday party. He made it abundantly clear, anyway, that he was not impressed by drinking and what it could lead to.

The foreign bankers, journalists and Schreiber's friends present that night were less interested in the president's drinking habits than they were in what the future held for wine estates such as Neethlingshof. They wanted to see a relaxation of the controls on foreign exchange and possibly the end of the state monopolies which make bottling, among other things, so expensive for exporters.

Mandela alluded in the Huguenots who had contributed as much to the development of South Africa's vineyards after fleeing from persecution in Europe. But for the rest the president was giving little away: he praised the role the estates played in the economy, earning money through sales and tourism, and voiced his readiness to encourage anything which contributed to South Africa's prosperity.

Yet he made a darker reference to the need to define proper labour relations in the future and ensure that the black vineyard workers not continue to get a rough deal. The white landowners were left in no doubt as to how they could win favour in his eyes.

A few days before Michael Baik of Backberg, another top estate, had told me that the white South Africans had three choices: they could "evaporate, emigrate or participate". Whether he or any of the others will make any real money out of their vineyards in the next few uncertain years remains to be seen; but, if anyone can, Hans Joachim Schreiber will.

Open the door to Africa

Heather Parker argues that its cuisines have been unjustly ignored

continent published in the west.

Although often patronising, and in some cases way off the mark, *The African Cookbook* can still be found in libraries and bookshops, perhaps because so little else has been published.

In the 1970s, however, travel

increased and holiday flavours made their mark. Couscous spread beyond Tangier, rose and orange-blossom scents floated away from Marrakech, and memories of mint tea in the balmy oases of North Africa wafted through English subrubs.

Other travellers went further afield, on hunting trips or safaris to destinations such as Kenya. With disquieting lack of sentiment, tourists enjoyed the same species of gourmets roasted on a spit in the evenings that they had gazed at in hincapie distortion by day.

So game - warthog steaks - found its way on to menus in restaurants claiming to provide African ethnic cooking.

During this time, refugees from Africa were arriving in Europe and North America, and the first real, non-homogenised African cooking rooted itself abroad. Ethiopian food found a home in Washington DC, for example, and the city now has about 45 Ethiopian restaurants.

Here may be the crux of the ambivalence about African cuisine. The Ethiopians were in Washington because their country was in desperate straits. Political and economic crisis, slaughter and starvation drove Africans to seek survival and a better quality of life in often unwelcoming foreign countries.

The most powerful images to come out of Africa, it is true, are the wasted grandmother, the expressionless stare of a starving infant, the AIDS victim in a dirty cot in a primitive hospital.

The UN Food and Agriculture Organisation last year warned that more than 34m people in sub-Saharan Africa faced famine and food short-

ages. Less than 5 per cent of the world's food aid went to the region 25 years ago, it said; today, the region swallows 47 per cent of global famine relief.

A sophisticated cuisine coming out of this starved and ravaged continent seems a tasteless concept.

But war and famine is not the only story of Africa, any more than Bosnia tells the story of Europe. Across the continent there are people who live a middle-class life - and social life in Africa, as in much of the world, revolves around food. Africans have a well-

sensitivity about Africa's plight and ignorance? Or is there something else?

One uncomfortable truth about Eurocentric culture is that anything coming out of Africa has been seen as unsophisticated. African music and dance, immeasurably complex, are only slowly changing that perception. The oral nature of much of Africa's rich literary tradition means that for years it was believed the continent had none. Traditional systems of social control and customary law, misunderstood by those ethnographers and colonisers who set out to study and "tame" the continent, were perceived as anarchic.

So with cooking traditions. If they were not written down, went the thinking, could they be worth serious study?

Related to this, perhaps, is Africa's inferiority complex.

The perception that local is lacking, or provincial, is widespread. Certain smart dinner tables in wine-rich South Africa make a point of serving sometimes inferior French wines. Landlocked Lesotho serves seafood in the Holiday Inn style at official functions with an international flavour.

A favourite brochure image of Africa shows women wrapped in colourful cloths, giant mortar raised overhead, grinding millet or corn at the fire burns. Equally unhelpful to western understanding is the almost universal habit of eating with the hands.

As a result, African food is often perceived in terms of a starchy mess of one sort or another cooked up over an open fire, enlivened perhaps by some vegetables or leaves gathered from a surly soil: fish from the sea or lakes; some other meats where they are available.



More than millet: Ethiopian cooking became popular in Washington DC after refugees started restaurants

The basic meal in much of Africa, it is true, is a bowl of something bland - sorghum, rice, maize and millet are staples throughout Africa, as is corn meal. But these foods are no more simple than the flour- and water-based pasta which underscores Italian cooking.

Nor are regional variations in Africa any less subtle or varied than those in Italy. From the Malay-spiced tables of the south across the German, French, Spanish and Portuguese influences of the centre and the Middle Eastern

flavours of the north, the colonisers and visitors have each sprinkled their own distinctive pinch of herbs across native cooking.

Basic African culinary tradition is as much an artificial concept as basic European cooking. And it is perhaps this, as much as the shared concept that African cooking has little to offer sophisticated western palates, that prevents Africa's culinary colonisation of more tables in the rest of the world.

So where does the novel begin?

The literary cook's treasure trove, *Books for Cooks in the Islamic Crescent*, London W1, has a couple of ideas.

It carries *The African Cook-book*, but I would recommend

one of the others on its shelves: *Traditional African Cooking* by Nigerian-born Olai Olaore, published in 1980; or *A Taste of Africa* by Ghanaian-born Dorothy Haimer, linked to the TV series and published in Britain last year.

Haimer made the *Independent* on Sunday's bestseller cookbook list earlier this year. But sadly - and this is symptomatic of the plight of African cuisine in the west - it appeared sandwiched between several volumes by Daria Smith and, in spite of the best efforts of Channel 4, lost places to not one but two volumes on Balti curries.

Golden g

James Henderson explores

TRAVEL

Back to basics and nature

Richard Donkin studies notes left by previous visitors and discovers what makes a holiday

Anyone seeking a glimpse into the British psyche should spend some time in a National Trust holiday cottage and read the notes of previous visitors.

Instead of the usual guest comments you get in the average hotel, blandishments such as "comfortable room", "pleasant stay" and "wonderful views", the Trust cottage visitor must arrive prepared to read and write part of an ever-lengthening tomes referring to almost every aspect of the visit. This can range from a niggle about the dripping hot water tap to the number of blue tit droppings on the lower branch of the apple tree.

Local pubs, restaurants, walks, swimming pools, car parks and their respective merits or defects are dissected in the minutest detail.

The journal at High Hall-

garth in the Lake District is richer than most. One line reads: "Enjoyed cooing some musical sounds out of the harmonium and also sang 'I know that my redeemer liveth' in the Cathedral. Wonderful acoustics, Madge Leeming."

The harmonium is a creaking old wooden box with organ keys and foot-bellows that produce a sound like an unplied door hinge. It sits at the back of a low-ceilinged room. The Cathedral is a nearby man-made cavern, hollowed out by slate workings.

High Hallgarth, which overlooks the tarn at Little Langdale, is described by the Trust as "spartan". It has oak beams, stone flags, no bathroom, shower or flushing toilet and the car has to be parked 100 yards away at the foot of a steep rocky path. The toilet is a primitive earth closet. The rooms are draughty, and damp

seeps into the kitchen which is frequently visited by mice.

So why are the visitors' journals - a hallmark of National Trust holidays - packed with eulogies and contented comments from enthusiasts who go time and again? While only Madge Leeming appeared to have been driven to rapturous song at High Hallgarth, The Blundys of Rugby confessed that they had "Used the tin bath twice with great success".

Most of the journal seemed to be devoted to the earth closet. Whole pages debated its correct use and the relative problems of "flushing" with anything other than a shovel-full of soil from the bucket by the side of your legs.

Those who confessed to having attempted to pour anything such as cleaning fluid or bleach down the black hole in the wooden shelf were entreated to scolding com-

ments by the National Trust warden. You are invariably "marked" or held to account by either the warden or the following tenants.

The parents who hid their child's wet bed by turning over the mattress are pilloried in the records as an example for all those who follow.

The cottage was given to the Trust in 1965 by two sister school teachers who had owned it since 1930. Like all Trust properties let for holidays - now numbering more than 200 - it is in an area where the National Trust has actively acquired land either for preservation because of its natural beauty or because of architectural merit or historical significance. This gives the Trust's holiday cottages a head start on location.

Unlike High Hallgarth, most are fitted out with modern kitchens and bathrooms. The rooms are draughty, and damp



failed to appear the holiday was considered a disappointment.

In the Cornish farm cottage we picked for a summer holiday, the journal had a far more practical tone - no poems or hymns there - perhaps demonstrating visitors' greater desire to get to the beach.

It takes an earth closet to

produce the shared experience that endures as a topic of note.

Perhaps it is the appeal of a simpler lifestyle that drives people to seek out places such as High Hallgarth as an antidote to convenience. Maybe it is to do with the silence, broken only by the crackling of a fire in the black-leaded range or the hoot of an owl, or maybe

it has something to do with nostalgia for the idyllic times, recognised memories and pleasures of childhood.

Whatever it is, the Trust is blessed with caring, even fond members and visitors who help to deliver their own formula for a successful holiday. The Trust provides the basics and nature looks after the rest.

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TRAVEL

Good old English fun

Richard Donkin on why oldies, planks, ordinaries and just about everyone enjoy what's on offer at Butlins

Brian Poole strode on stage to a barely tepid reception. Most of those filling the nightclub had not been born when the Tremeloes had their last number one hit record. Even those who had, looked puzzled because this was Brian Poole and the Electricians.

The Tremeloes, apparently, are still performing their numbers on some kind of circuit, whereas the Electricians have achieved the dizzy heights of Butlins in Bognor Regis, the Sussex resort whose only claim to notoriety is its choice by the doctor of King George V as the place for his convalescence before he died.

Poole was dressed in black slim-fitting trousers made all the more unfortunate because he was no longer slim. He had the sort of top-heavy bulk that hung over his waistband in the way that a button mushroom overhangs its stalk.

It took some quizzical nudges and murmurs among partners in the audience before it dawned - this man used to be someone. Armed with this realisation, the reception warmed appreciatively. It did not matter that the drummer, who might have been taken for Richard Cere under soft-lighting, was announced as a "former stripper" or that he performed a fire-eating act in his white cotton vest during one of the numbers. When Poole crooned Silence is Golden, if you shut your eyes and muffled your ears a hit it was just about possible to attain a hint of nostalgia.

"It will be better tomorrow night when they have the Nolan Sisters," said a stranger on the next table. In the end Brian Poole and the Electricians went down, if not a storm then something more than a heavy shower on a blustery day. They were dancing in the aisles, dancing on the stage, dancing by the Poole.

There may be better places

to be than Butlins in Bognor on a cold day in April, but fewer where you could experience a good night so cheaply.

The nightclub was the posh part of the camp. Next door was a massive hall, like a mall with bars instead of shops on the periphery of a large seated area packed with parents and prams, children and grandmothers, sons in over-sized jeans and mini-skirted teenage daughters staggering under the influence of drink. Frustrated teenage boys with a smattering of their chivalry vainly tried to get themselves beer at the bar by presenting fake and the Electricians.

Outside the fence it suddenly became clear what had been troubling me. This was the sea-side and I had not seen the sea. You have to get on to the sea wall to be reminded of that once great holiday attraction that seems to have lost some of its appeal. Two grumpy old men wearing bobble caps and wind-jammers were crouched by a groyne, buddled together in the face of a stiff sea breeze whipping at the waves.

The tips of their glass-flare beach rods were quivering in the wind. "It's impossible to tell whether it's a bite or not. We just reel-in occasionally and sometimes there's a fish on," explained one of them. The fishing was poor. "Nothing but undersized things," his partner complained. "Not that we eat them when we catch them. I can't stand fish."

They were members of a sea angling club and weighed their good-sized fish for a points tally at the end of the year. "It's just about the cheapest kind of fishing you can get," said the oldest of the men, who looked so fragile that a good wave might have seen him off.

This was as exciting as it got in Bognor. The town was like any other soulless south of England shopping centre, its pedestrian precinct peppered with all the usual high street names, including a McDonald's restaurant. McDonald's was the only place open. I wasn't hungry but went there anyway. The brain had closed down for the day but the stomach proved capable of making its own decisions.

What I did not know, but what my stomach had somehow sensed, was that dinner in the camp would be a big disappointment. I had wanted a vegetarian course until I saw it

and switched to chicken. Like the fisherman, I should have weighed it and settled for the points tally at the end of the year. "It's just about the cheapest kind of fishing you can get," said the oldest of the men, who looked so fragile that a good wave might have seen him off.

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An overwhelming feeling of oppressiveness came over me



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The previous day the waiter had meticulously taken down orders for pudding in advance to make sure that we would all get what we wanted. On the menu was chocolate mousse, strawberry mousse, chocolate or vanilla ice cream or gooseberry pie. Most had plumped for the Black Forest Gateaux. "Sorry that's off," said the waiter.

The ritual was repeated as he took alternative orders, each time the guests being told that that was off. It came down to the gooseberry pie. I wondered if the order-taking had been a clever deception. Maybe it had only been gooseberry pie all along.

If this was a restaurant cri-

beyond what should be their bedtime.

But among the chintz, the oldies, the planks and the ordinaries, there is a strong sense of decay. It is a place where disabled people can get up on the dance floor, free from gawpers and where old people in wheelchairs can enjoy watching drummers eating fire instead of sitting in circles in a home, and where Asian families can mix with whites, free from racial taunts. It is as much a part of Britain, if not more, than Glyndebourne.

"Bugger Bognor," said George R, reputedly his dying words when it was suggested that he went there. An understandable sentiment, perhaps, schooled by two other grumpy old men on a wasted fishing trip, but ultimately undeserved. Brian Poole could have put him straight. Nobody dies at Butlins.

An escapee's dream

They lie just 28 miles south-west of Land's End, but they could be in another world. Warmed by the Gulf Stream, it is customary to describe them as "The Fortunate Islands", basking in a mild climate, with waters astonishingly clear and translucent. But the seas surrounding them have darker moods, the tranquillity turning to bleak fury when winter gales fling Atlantic rollers against granite rocks.

More than 100 "islands" make up the Isles of Scilly, but only five are inhabited: St. Mary's, the largest, followed by Tresco, St. Martin's, St. Agnes (with its satellite island Gugh linked by sand-bar at low water) and Bryher. In all, there are little more than 2,000 resident islanders. Of the rest, 49 can reasonably be called islands, with delightful names such as Illiswigg, Inisodigen, Men-a-vaur, Norrur and Rosevear.

Tresco is a favourite for many visitors. It has the famous Abbey Gardens, with abundant semi-tropical and exotic flora, and historic remains (two castles, one built by King Charles I and the other by Cromwell). The island is also excellent for walking, with remarkable scenery from steep rocky headlands in the north, tree-clad uplands and farmland in the centre and the gentle sands of Pentle Bay in the south. Tresco is also served directly by helicopter from Penzance.

St. Mary's is another delight, and carefully protected, such as uninhabited Annet, awash with thrift in season. The entire area is designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, the coast as a Heritage Coast and the waters as a Marine Park.

I go to the islands a lot, because they are a nature lover's delight and collectively offer one of the few places in Britain where one can escape from everyday cares. Islands they may be, but it is possible to walk to the peak of exhaustion, following the cliff paths through the astonishing variety of wild flowers, with every rocky headland offering ever-changing vistas of sea and sky, and only the sound of birds and water for company.

But for those with less energetic ambitions, St. Mary's, only three miles long and two miles wide, is the centre of activity, offering golf and other sports and pastimes, and shops. However, St. Mary's also contains some Megalithic remains, evidence that thou-

sands of years ago our ancestors also found the islands welcoming.

The island has one of the smallest airports in Britain, served directly from the mainland by British International's helicopters from Penzance and the small fixed-wing aircraft of the Isles of Scilly. Skysbus from Land's End, Exeter and Newquay.

From St. Mary's harbour, surprisingly large and busy, the white Scillonian III steamer from Penzance loads and unloads its human and other cargoes, and the small local boats convey visitors to the other islands.

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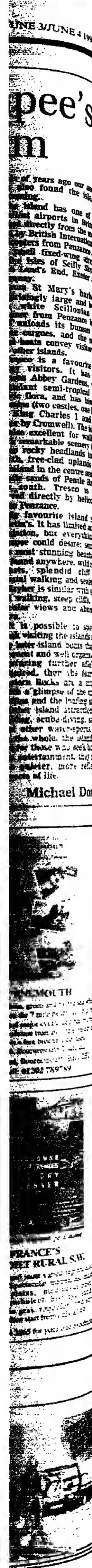
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MOTORING / GARDENING

One European car in 10 is an estate. The Germans like them so much they account for more than 42 per cent of sales in the super-mid-size estate class. VW even sells more Passat estates than saloons. The Italians come next with 18.6 per cent and Britain (13.2 per cent) is third.

But the French, who buy only half as many as we do, are curiously ambivalent about estates, even though some of the best ones are French. They call them "breaks" though they really mean "breaks" - as in shooting brakes, a term that died in the UK with wooden panelled bodies.

The French worry that a "break" may be perceived as a sort of plumber's van with windows. The connotations across the Channel are of trade and dirty overalls, not rolling acres and tweeds.

This nervousness was apparent a few days ago when Citroën's keenly awaited Xantia estate was unveiled in Paris. Initially, more emphasis was put on prestige and simon. Towing lines than on mundane matters such as load carrying capacity.

Surprisingly, when you consider that more estate cars than saloon or hatchback buyers go for diesels, four of the first five versions of the Xantia estate will be petrol engined.

The entry model will have a 1.8-litre, 103 horsepower unit. There will be three 2.0-litre engines - a 123 horsepower 8-valve, a 135 horsepower 16-valve and a 150 horsepower turbo that is also offered in the XM.

When the first Xantia estates go on sale on mainland Europe in September - and in Britain one month later - the sole diesel will be a 1.9-litre, 92 horsepower turbo. Automatic transmission will be available only on the 8-valve petrol engined model.

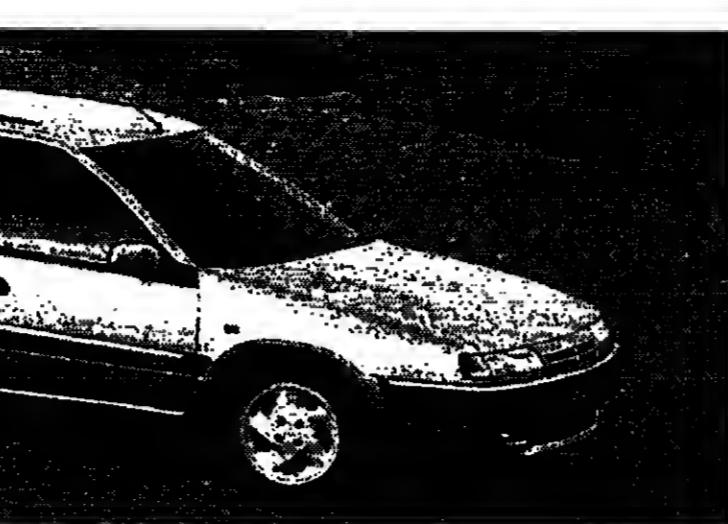
But once Citroën feels it has made the point that Xantia estates are meant to carry picnic hampers and bunting, sadness, not sacks of cement or lengths of copper pipe, more deaths will follow.

Will the Xantia estate range include one with the 2.1-litre diesel engine and automatic transmission currently used in the two-pedal XM? Last week no one was prepared to say so, but I would be surprised (and disappointed) if it does not.

From the outset, the design team conceived the Xantia as an estate as well as a hatchback. It shows. The elegance is uncompromised. Some estates that saw the Xantia estate unveiled was that it was just as beautiful as the hatchback - and this is reckoned to be the best looking car in its class.

It is practical, too. The slab-sided load space is roomier than a Ford Mondeo or VW Passat estate's, though Renault says its new Laguna estate's is even bigger and that it can carry more weight.

Uniquely, the Xantia's suspension is self-levelling and the whole car can be lifted to negotiate rough ground, or lowered to make loading really large



The Citroën Xantia estate. The beauty of a blood horse but more cargo space than a Mondeo or Passat



The Renault Laguna estate. Clearly derived from a hatchback but ultra-roomy and a potential 7-seater

Motoring

The estate of elegance

Stuart Marshall on the new Citroën Xantia and Renault Laguna estates

Consensus of opinion among the horde of motoring journalists that saw the Xantia estate unveiled was that it was just as beautiful as the hatchback - and this is reckoned to be the best looking car in its class.

It is practical, too. The slab-sided load space is roomier than a Ford Mondeo or VW Passat estate's, though Renault says its new Laguna estate's is even bigger and that it can carry more weight.

Like all other estates, the Xantia is no different from the hatchback as far as the centre pillar. From then on it is pretty well all new. The rear passenger doors do not break the continuity and purity of line. The wheelbase is unaltered and the body is 21.6cm (nearly 9ins) longer.

and awkward items easier. A safety barrier to help prevent cargo flying forward in a crash can be used with the Xantia's rear seat up or folded down.

The Laguna estate will be one of the Xantia's strongest challengers. It will be launched with a comparable choice of petrol engines - 1.8-litre, 85 horsepower, 2.0-litre, 8-valve 115hp, and 2.0-litre, 16-valve 140hp plus a multivalve 2.2-litre, 85hp non-turbo diesel.

Like the Xantia, it has integral roof side rails that into which load-carrying cross-bars can be slotted, and three-point belts for all passengers. Unlike

the Xantia, the Laguna can be had with two optional extra rear-facing child seats and a BMW-style two-piece tailgate. The glass can be raised and lowered independently which means the whole tailgate does not have to be lifted to put a small bag of groceries on board.

Both Citroën Xantia and Renault Laguna estates make their public debut at Frankfurt motor show in September. Prices will be announced then. I predict they will be close, with only a modest premium over the equivalent hatchbacks.

Gardening / Roy Barnes
How to live with the honey fungus beast

In the gales of last winter the giant walnut tree in the field opposite our house gave up struggling against its ills and blew over. We awoke and, through our bedroom window, saw the corpse lying prostrate and broken, watched over by the Shetland pony that shod its field.

A sad sight, but not unexpected; for three years it had struggled on, gradually, each year, looking older, greyer, baldier, frailer.

Yet it was not old age that killed the walnut. Its killer lived underground and had been eating it away for a long time. Last autumn it revealed itself for the first time - a many-headed, ugly, smelly monster feeding off the roots of the tree - the dreaded Honey fungus.

In his recent TV series, *The Private Life of Plants*, David Attenborough rhapsodised, in the way that only he can about the symbiotic relationship between fungi and woodlands, but he hardly mentioned the destructive power of some of our native species - Beech brackets and Armillaria mellea, the underground menace that spreads its bootlace tentacles inexorably through the ground latching on to dead or living roots and consuming all in its path.

Armillaria mellea holds the world record for vegetative spread. It grows a yard a year.

There are chemicals that can kill it, but they are so dangerous and unreliable that they are best left alone. When you've got it, you have to learn to live with it, old boy.

Three years ago, I planned a new winter garden and had a great deal of fun drawing up the blueprint, scouring the catalogues and consulting the experts. The thicket of brambles, elderberry, stinging nettles, cow parsley and the remains of an old shrubbery were removed. The heavy clay soil was dug over and two tons of sharp sand added to aid drainage. Then huge roots were discovered, sycamore and elm that had given up the ghost long ago.

"You've got it, I'm afraid," said Ken.

"Get what?"

"Armillaria - I don't know which one, but if it's what I think it is, you'd better have a re-think."

Ken's the tree and shrub guru, the practical expert, who can equally well hand-dig a half-acre and remove every wisp of ground elder as happily as grow test-tube samples of Armillaria mellea.

He was right. We had it. Abandon all hope of growing your fancy Acer griseum and palmatum "osakazuki", your Malus "Red Jade" and those delightful Prunus, the Chinese Peach and the Russian almond - all food for the hungry fungus.

It was right. We had it. Abandon all hope of growing your fancy Acer griseum and palmatum "osakazuki", your Malus "Red Jade" and those delightful Prunus, the Chinese Peach and the Russian almond - all food for the hungry fungus.

In its excellent leaflet, the Forestry Commission says that, although conifer plantations are at risk, the older broad-leaved forests do not succumb so readily and can withstand a large amount of buttrot. Nevertheless, I fear for my stand of mixed willow so near one of the infected areas. As ever, the Forestry Commission's advice is eminently practical - the only way to combat honey fungus is to remove its food supply: take out all the roots of dead and dying trees and it will starve to death.

My garden is not amenable to invasion by bulldozer and mechanical diggers, so we have adopted plan two - containing the beast. Wherever we have identified the presence of honey fungus, we have dug moats and lined them with black polythene supported by good Cambridge brick.

So we await next autumn to see where those honeycoloured fungus caps are going to appear. I used to think that, if we collected and killed all the toadstools when they came up we would stop the spread. That's before I knew about the underground bootlace factories.

"No use to do that," said Stuart, my other homespun expert. "The air is full of billions of the spores and they're floating everywhere in the air all the time. You've got to learn to live with it, old boy."

There is one consolation. Honey fungus is edible, if you like that sort of thing and can stand the stink. Michael Jordan, who presented a marvellous Channel 4 programme, *Mushroom Magic*, about five years ago, advises you should sauté them in butter for a minute or make a soup of them.

They have a peppery taste and are somewhat acid, so you don't have to season them. Happy eating!

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PROPERTY

Peace process lifts the Israeli market

Gerald Cadogan on how prices are rising sharply as borders are reopened and fences are mended

Peace processes boost property prices. In Northern Ireland and South Africa they have risen sharply, for example. And it is even happening in Israel, as borders open and relationships are patched up.

A three-room flat in Jerusalem that cost \$165,000 last year - the US dollar is an alternative currency in Israel - would now be \$200-230,000, according to Adrian Blumenthal of estate agent Inter Israel.

At the Red Sea resort of Eilat, where a border crossing is now open to Aqaba in Jordan, a flat of this size costs \$120,000 as against \$90,000 in 1992.

While buyers in Northern Ireland and South Africa include nationals returning home after long and often self-imposed exile, as well as incomers looking for holiday homes, Israel's market is different and much larger. Israelis abroad who will come back to buy are few, but Jews around the world form a large group of potential buyers.

Israel and its property market did not suffer the recession of the early 1990s partly because half a million immigrants arrived, mainly from Russia. The government has built them apartments through private contractors, which has had a knock on effect in the market, says Stanley Finkelstein of estate agent Anglo Saxon.

The strong growth of the Tel Aviv stock exchange has also helped. And from 1991 life insurers were allowed to invest more easily in property, Blumenthal points out.

Israel now looks forward to integrating into regional markets that have been closed for years and tourism is booming, as visitors realise they can cross into Jordan to see Petra - as Israelis now do - as well as going to Egypt for Sinai or the Pyramids.

Although peace will eventually lift the crippling defence

burden from Israel and the Arab countries, the greatest gain is psychological: Israelis no longer feel hemmed in.

One result is a cheerful property market, which is turning towards leisure developments. These attract foreigners, as at a town house complex on the coast at Ashkelon south of Tel Aviv, built around Israel's second golf course.

Jewish and non-Jewish buyers alike would find efficient patterns of daily life, plenty of people who speak foreign languages, lively politics, and a rich range of museums and arts events.

The beaches are sandy and the landscapes range from the Negev desert to the hills of Jerusalem and the lush walled country in the north

Jerusalem is unique and expensive. A flat with a view of the Knesset might cost \$1m

at the foot of Mt Hermon where the river Jordan begins. Archaeology flourishes.

Tel Aviv is the most expensive area on the coast, with prices on the seafront even reaching \$7,000 a square metre. Going north, they start to fall in Herzliya Pituah, where Blumenthal estimates a three-room flat as costing \$180,000-\$200,000 (as against \$240,000 in north Tel Aviv).

Further north, Caesarea is about half the price of Herzliya. It is an attractive resort, now 30 years old, and has a golf course and fine beach. The development of individual houses has been a joint project of the Rothschild Trust and the Caesarea Development Corporation, which will sell a plot provided the buyer starts building in two years. The aim is to prevent land speculation.

Buying in Israel is not difficult. The state owns 90 per cent of the land; the rest, in private ownership, is mainly in the cities. Costs will total about 8 per cent, which include a registration fee (or buying tax) on a sliding scale up to 4.5 per cent; the lawyer's fee usually of 1.5 per cent, plus VAT (at 17 per cent); and the agent's fee of 2 per cent plus VAT - even for buyers.

There is no agent's fee on a new project, and no VAT in Eilat as it is a free port. On a resale, the agent takes 2 per cent from both parties.

In Tel Aviv: Anglo Saxon (00972-3-691 9245); Inter Israel (009 2-3-561 6161).

One of the most dramatic sales of the late 20th century was launched this week. The Frasers of Lovat are selling Beaufort Castle and much of the surrounding estate, where they have lived for 600 years. The place is drenched in Scottish history - and in recent misfortune.

The castle is a vast Scots baronial red sandstone pile sitting in beautiful Inverness countryside above the River Beauly. It is the traditional seat of Lord Macleod, or son of Simon, which is the name of each head of the family.

There have been castles at Beaufort since around 1400 and the first Simon Fraser known to have held land in Scotland did so in 1160.

Simon 11th Lord Lovat, known as the "old fox", lost the estate for supporting Bonnie Prince Charlie in the rebellion of 1745 and was the last peer to be executed in the Tower of London. (His false teeth are in a display cabinet in the dining room at Beaufort.) But his son was pardoned and had the estates restored for raising two regiments, the Fraser Highlanders, and for fighting with Wolfe at Quebec.

His brother Archibald campaigned for the repeal of the ban on "Highland Garb" and the return of the kilt, and raised a regiment for the Neapoleonic wars.

The 16th Lord Lovat raised the famous Lovat Scouts and commanded them in the Boer war, while his son the 17th Lord was a brilliant and much-decorated commander, famed for marching ashore at Sword Beach in 1944 and to Pegasus Bridge, with his piper playing beside him. He died in March.

The 18th Lord is now his 18-year-old grandson Simon, whose father Simon (as heir, he was called Master of Lovat, died of a heart attack hunting at Beaufort in March 1984 - a few days after a buffalo killed his brother Andrew in Kenya.

The Lovats lost their oldest and youngest sons in a fortnight.

Now grim financial news compounds the Frasers' misfortunes. Fearful of death duties, the late Lord Lovat handed over much of the estate in 1965 to the Master of Lovat, who came to live at Beaufort and set about diversifying.

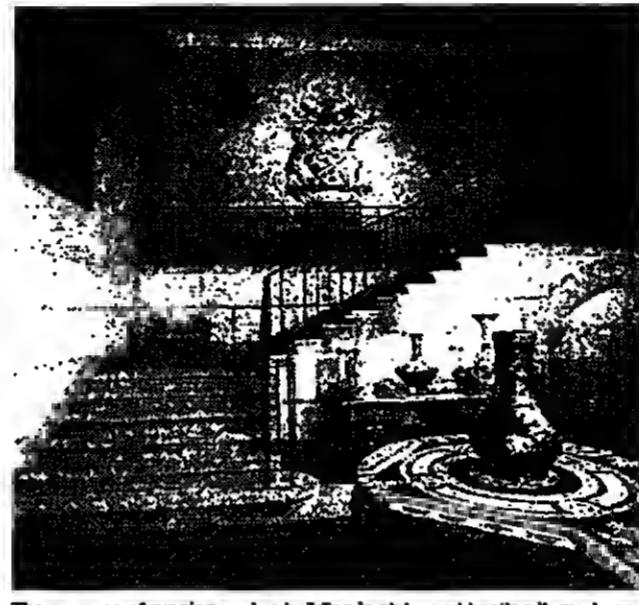
The expense of running such



Drenched in Scottish history: the baronial red sandstone pile in beautiful Inverness countryside

Cadogan's Place

Beaufort Castle up for sale



The expense of running such a building in style, and heating it, are huge

a building in style, and heating it, are huge, and for most of this century the farm rents were not enough to pay the bills. So land was steadily sold off.

A few years ago these sales became a flood, as Simon Fraser's schemes - a garage, exotic cattle, fish farms, a mineral water plant for Lovat Water, investments in Canada and Australia, Lloyd's - failed to

make the money envisaged.

Plans for a clan centre, golf course and hotel were shelved. In 1990, he sold the salmon fisheries on the Beauly river, and a 30,000-acre deer forest to a timeshare company, luckily at the top of the market. The asking price was more than £12m.

But when he died, the Master left £8.5m, with debts of £7.4m.

Although Victorian, and partly rebuilt in the 1930s after a fire, the castle has light

Also last year, Gerber Foods, the distributor of Lovat Water, bought the water plant in receivership and there were other sales of land and fisheries. The garage too has gone.

Now the castle is for sale with 19,500 acres in 39 lots, the Beaufort estate offers shooting, stalking, fishing and in-hand farming to include 27 houses and cottages, and an outdoor riding school that awaits horses and riders. Local farmers in the hope of achieving economies of scale with their existing men and machinery.

Although Victorian, and partly rebuilt in the 1930s after a fire, the castle has light welcoming rooms, and superb views over the park and Beauly river. It has been repaired and the roof is in good condition.

One lot for sale is a prime week's fishing in July for five rods, which Fraser bought back when he sold the fisheries for timeshare. The salmon have been doing well. Last year the week produced 171

fish and the three-year average is 99.

Agents Finlays & Hughes in Inverness (01463-224345) and Knight Frank & Rutley in Edinburgh (0131-225 8171) intend to allow plenty of time for buyers to inspect. Then they will follow the age-old Scottish custom of sealed bids.

The price for the whole should be an offer over £8m.

□ □ □

Three sporting alternatives in the Highlands are:

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■ Dumbie, a cliff-top castle in Caithness, in superb condition with 30,000 acres including a deer forest and the entire Dumbie Water river system. KFR, offers over £3m.

■ The river Halladale in Sutherland, another whole river system with a five-year average of 312 salmon. KFR or Langley Taylor (0131-225 0576), offers over £1.85m.

Gerald Cadogan

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FASHION / HOW TO SPEND IT

The simple look gets easier

Lucia van der Post tracks down the ingredients that will go to make this summer's perfect wardrobe

The look this summer is simple, streamlined, pared-down. Sounds easy but, as anybody who has ever tried will know, nothing simple is ever easy.

The simpler the look, the more every single detail counts, the more quality really matters and the more important it becomes to put the few ingredients together in the right way.

So that's the bad news. The good news is that this summer's look requires fewer ingredients than ever before - jewellery is kept to a minimum, scarves and the layered paraphernalia of grunge have given way to just a few beautifully cut pieces.

Photographed here are some of the pieces that make up a perfect summer wardrobe.

Many of them can be teamed with things that are already in your wardrobe. For instance, the blue cropped sweater - like the skinny cardigans and twin-sets which are also part of this summer's look - can give a new and fresh look to a pair of white linen trousers.

If you do not already own some white linen trousers, now is perhaps the moment to get some -

either go for Irene van Ryb's marvellous sailor trousers (photographed below), which impart a suitably nautical air to any holiday venturing on a seaside or boating holiday, or, aim for a pair of Capri pants which are to be found in every price bracket this summer but are perhaps most beautifully cut by Gucci in the version photographed here as part of a summer suit.

For those who feel that they are unlikely to look their best in either sailor trousers or Capri pants, a plain shift-like dress is another option. Paul Frits (to order, tel: 0171-739 8150) has an easy white linen sleeveless version at £260 which could be a stand-by all summer long.

To complete the summer holiday wardrobe you will need two sets of shoes - a pair of Superga tennis shoes for an informal, sporty look, and a pair of the highest of heels that you can balance on to feel all dressed-up - some Jackie O sunglasses, a structured handbag and you are ready to go.

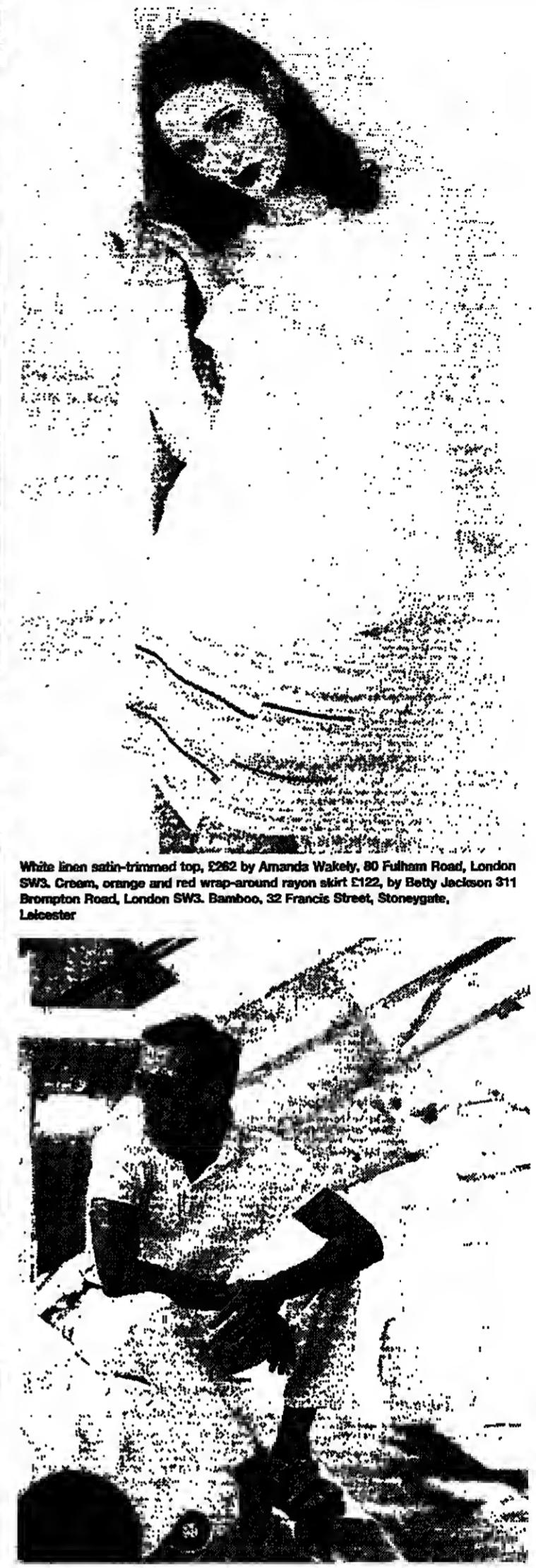
This summer may be the season we all finally manage to pack everything for the holiday into one carry-on bag after all.



White linen double-breasted jacket £275, matching capri pants, £190, and pink short-sleeved cashmere cardigan, £350, all by Gucci, 32-33 Old Bond Street, London W1 and 17-18 Sloane Street, London SW1. White high-heeled shoes £165, and white patent handbag with bamboo handle, £355 both by Gucci.

■ Photographed on board Cunard Lines' Queen Elizabeth II

Photographer: Martyn Thompson; Stylist: Philippa Ealing; Make-up: Cathy Lomax; Hair: Adam Bryant for Toni & Guy



White linen satin-trimmed top, £262 by Amanda Wakeley, 80 Fulham Road, London SW3. Cream, orange and red wrap-around rayon skirt £122, by Betty Jackson 311 Brompton Road, London SW3. Bamboo, 32 Francis Street, Stoneygate, Leicester.

White cotton ribbed top to order, brown leather plaited belt £95 and brown plated buckle £100 all by Gucci, 32-33 Old Bond Street, London W1, and 17-18 Sloane Street, London SW1. White cotton trousers, £95 by Margaret Howell, 24 Brook Street, London W1. Sunglasses by Oliver Peoples from £150, at David Clulow, 70 Old Compton Street and branches.

The classic appeal of the pearl

Lucia van der Post meets an expert who has created a dramatic range of jewellery

Pearls play the same role in women's jewellery collections that the little black dress does in their wardrobes - it is the all-time classic, the jewellery they reach for when they can't think what else to put on.

Pearls can add a glow to the austere chic of black and light up the face in the way that few other pieces of jewellery can. They can be worn with a T-shirt and not look out of place and they can also adorn the grandest ball dress.

The difficulty about buying pearls, however, is that the choice is bewildering and the chances of being able to judge for yourself whether you are getting a fair deal are remote. Artificial pearls can cost as little as £10 in a department store, or you could pay thousands in the grand jewellers.

Now that the real thing - the pearl that has been entirely naturally formed by a grain of sand lodging in an oyster shell - has become so rarefied, most of us are resigned to discovering the charms of cultured pearls.

The world of cultured pearls, though, is not simple, for their price depends upon their quality - and for the amateur unused to comparing pearls, that is not always easy to judge.

Lustre and size are the two main factors to look for - the deeper the glow, the more perfect the shape and surface, the more valuable they are.

It pays to go to an expert. Christiansen Coleman Douglas specialises in providing a bespoke service. She will explain the differences between the best cultured

pearls (a single pearl from a single oyster which has had an irritant placed inside its shell, and which, once the pearl has been extracted, dies) and Biwa pearls (these come from mussels which do not die after the pearl has been extracted).

Needless to say a strand of Biwa pearls is usually (but, confusingly, not always) cheaper - one which might cost between £40 and £70 would probably cost from £20 if made of cultured pearls.

Apart from being able to

make up any design in any sort of pearl (she can even get hold of black pearls and real pearls) Coleman Douglas specialises in producing a range of pearl jewellery - for instance there is a large choker which can turn into a loose necklace lying lower down the neck, or a smaller choker. These vary in price, depending upon size and quality of pearls, from £280 to £1,600.

She has some very dramatic arm-bands which can be made to order featuring any pattern

or combination of pearls - these vary in price from £480 to £880. When the wearer is tired of the item she will reconstruct the pearls into any other piece of jewellery.

She is as happy doing a very simple string of tiny little seed pearls (ideal for christening presents) for £16, as she is to do her grand choker for £1,600 and in between come her simple strings of pearls. Plain

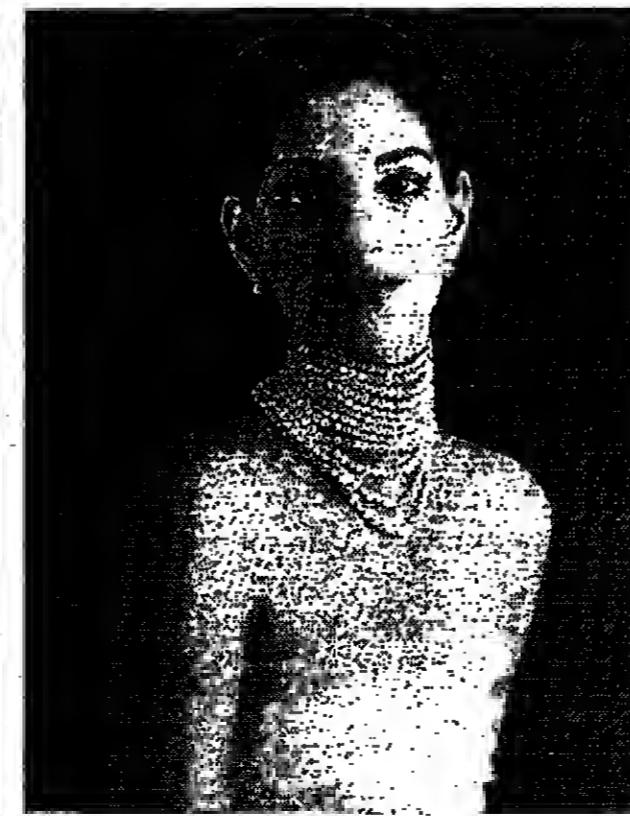
18-millimetre cultured pearls are £120 while smaller ones are £50.

She has a capsule collection of her designs which can be seen at The Chelsea Collections, 90 Fulham Road, London SW3; Moa, 72 Fulham Road, London SW3; Emma Meyer Studio, 7 Chesham Road, Sunningdale, Ascot; and Sarah Spencer, 1st Floor, 12 Beauchamp Place, London SW3.

Those wanting Coleman Douglas's specialist design service - she will also value pearls and restring and redesign old pearls - can contact her on 0171-739 3369.



Arm-band in black and Biwa pearls, £480. Biwa pearl necklace, £70



Choker made from Biwa pearls, £1,600

BREITLING
1884



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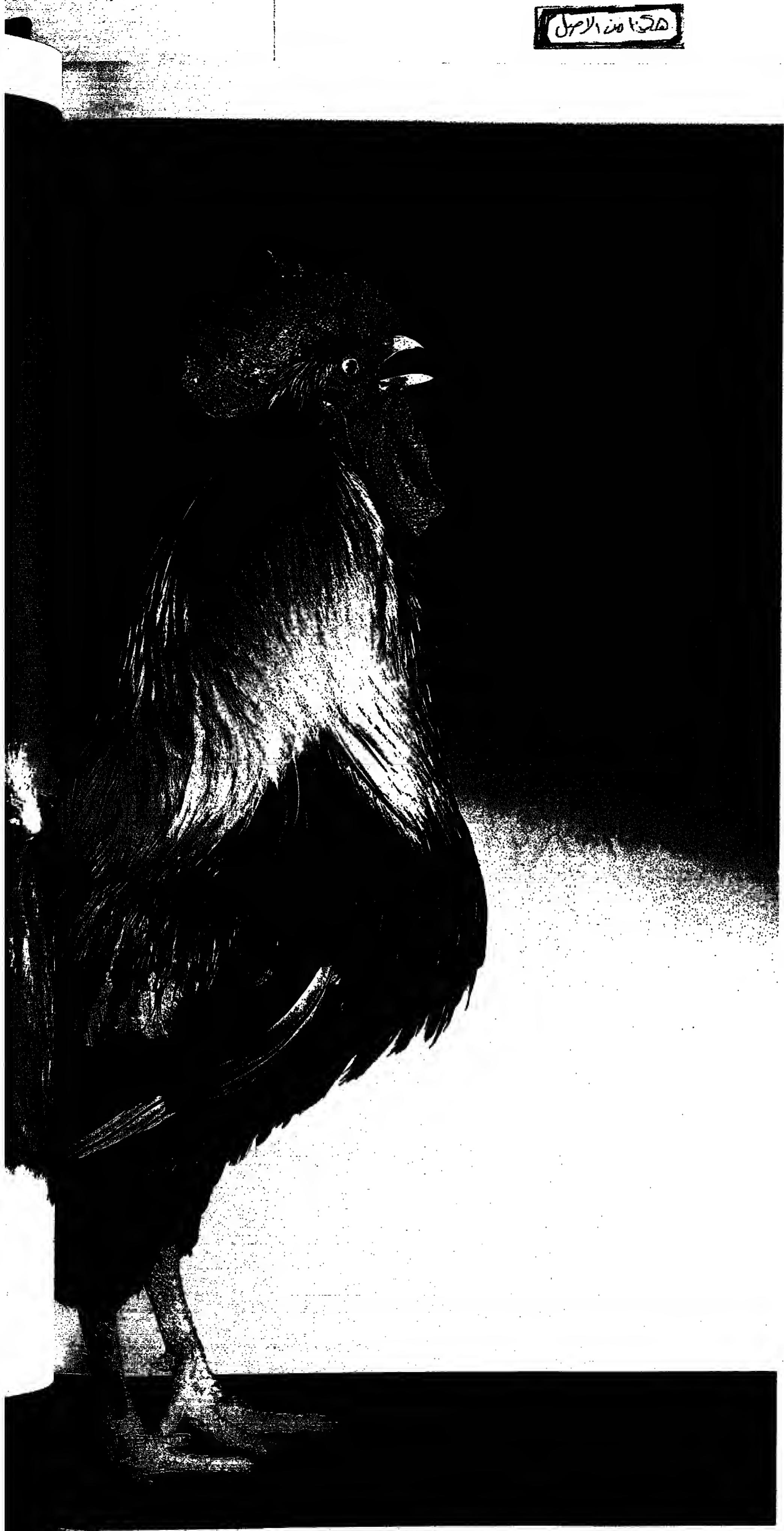
But digital readouts can for instance provide times to $\frac{1}{1000}$ th of a second and alphanumerical data along with simplifying the setting of programmable functions.

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Tennis

Americans still jinxed in Paris

At the French Open, John Barrett sees Sampras crashing out and a recklessness in Agassi's play

Some things never change. For 34 years following Tony Trabert's second win in Paris in 1965 the Americans, so dominant elsewhere, could never provide a French Open champion.

Seventeen-year-old Michael Chang dramatically ended the drought in 1989 and then Jim Courier grafted his way to two wins in 1991 and 1992. The jinx, it seemed, had been overcome.

Yet twice since then Andre Agassi has failed in the final here and last Wednesday Pete Sampras, the reigning Wimbledon champion who had arranged his tournament programme with the specific aim of winning the one Grand Slam title that has so far eluded him, was beaten in the opening round by Austria's Gilbert Schaller, ranked 24.

"I think this loss is probably going to hang with me for quite a while," said a disconsolate Sampras who planned to return to the US before coming back to Europe for the Stella Artois tournament at Queen's Club starting on June 12.

Sampras was unlucky that his programme of clay court acclimatisation was interrupted by an injury in Monte Carlo, but there is still an inadequacy about his game on the surface that is worrying.

Everything depends upon the quality of his service. If that

weapon is firing well he can stay in contention. If not he breaks down in the rallies or flicks his backhand to mid-court and exposes himself to attack. The fact that 98 of the 178 points won by Schaller were unforced errors from Sampras is rather revealing. So is the indecision which is so apparent in his game. It seems Sampras is still missing his sick coach, Tim Gullikson.

American men provided the largest contingent in this year's draw but of the 19 who started only 9 won through to the second round and five to the third.

Among the survivors was Agassi, now the world No.1 and top seed. Despite his impressive early form there is a recklessness about Agassi's attacking backcourt game that will play into the hands of men like the Austrian left-hander Thomas Muster, seeded No.5, whom he might meet in the semi-finals, and the two-time defending champion Sergi Bruguera. Both are clay court experts.

When he arrived in Paris, Muster had won his last 38 matches on clay, including the title in Rome which was his fifth tournament win this year. Although Muster has never been past the fourth round in Paris, this may be the breakthrough year. He has altered his diet and revised his training methods to provide greater stamina, the factor

which in the past has let him down in Grand Slams.

Bruguera should emerge from the lower half to a third consecutive final. Of the seeds in his half only Chang is a recognised clay court player and he lost to the Spaniard the last time they met at the ATP finals last November.

Like Sampras, Bruguera has had injury problems this year but with

Everything depends upon the quality of Sampras's service. If it is firing well he can stay in contention

each passing week is looking stronger and more confident. His run to the final in Rome was just the preparation he needed and of all the leading contenders he looks the most likely winner to me.

A great deal of interest has surrounded the exploits of two young Australians, Andrew Ilie and Scott Draper, both of whom qualified here, no mean achievement in itself.

In the first round Ilie survived a match point to beat the Italian, Cristiano Caratti, 6-4 in the fifth set. He then knocked out the No.15 seed, Richard Krajicek, one of the strongest servers in the game. This was another draining five-setter that lasted two hours and 45 minutes and Ilie, a hustling ball of energy with a reputation for blowing up in close matches, survived with commendable coolness.

He is an interesting character this determined 19-year-old who had received a wild card into the Australian Open, his only previous experience of Grand Slam tennis. Born in Bucharest, he accompanied the family when they emigrated to Australia seven years ago.

He still remembers the appalling conditions in Romania while he was growing up, privations which have contributed to his determination on court. "You had to queue for food like bread and milk, and everything was hard to get and life was hard."

"I started playing when I was eight, in a group like everyone else. I used to spend my time hitting against the wall and breaking balls. There was a club, but when we put in emigration papers I was not allowed to play on the court so any court time I had, I had to steal."

Although Ilie reached the final of the Australian Open junior event in January 1994, the Australian Association has not offered him any

financial help. Accordingly he moved four months ago to Salzburg where he joined the coaching school run by Gunther Bosch, the man who coached Boris Becker to two Wimbledon victories.

This arrangement is financed by Sever Mureşan, a former Davis Cup colleague of Ilie Nastase and Ion Tiriac and who is now one of the sponsors of the Romanian Open. According to Bosch, Ilie will be available to play Davis Cup tennis for Romania. That will cause a lot of heart-searching in Melbourne.

Draper will cause no such concerns. He is here as part of Tennis Australia's official team. Ray Kelly is accompanying him as coach, and Davis Cup captain Tony Roche is keeping an eye on him. Draper is a left-hander from Queensland in the Rod Laver mould who turns 21 next Monday.

Draper's first round win in five sets over Swedish Davis Cup player Jonas Björkman, now ranked 21 in the world, revealed a natural match player's ability to adjust the tactics to the requirements of the moment. Draper has lovely hands, caressing the ball with backspin one minute, drilling it with topspin the next.

The measure of his ability was the frustration displayed by Björkman who threw down his racket which bounced into the adjoining court, an offence which should have got a warning.



Sergi Bruguera: of the leading contenders he looks the most likely winner

On Thursday, Draper played a magnificent fighting match against Schaller. Sampras's conqueror, leading 6-4 6-4, had a match point in the third set tie-break but lost it seven points to five. Trailing 0-3 in the fourth set, Draper played some

inspired tennis and won it 7-5.

Again he was behind 0-3 in the fifth

but eventually won the set 8-6 after

saving two more match points at

5-6. It was a heroic performance for

one so inexperienced. I wonder what Sampras thought of it all.



World cup action: Scotland's Peter Wright fends off Tonga's William Lose in their Pool D match this week

Rugby Union: Myths and Legends

A fine disregard for the real truth

Webb Ellis is not the game's founding father, despite giving his name to the world cup, says Huw Richards

As the world cup progresses we will be told more than once that "William Webb Ellis would be shattered if he could see this". So he would be, but not for the reasons implied.

The naming of rugby union's world cup as the William Webb Ellis trophy perpetuates one of the oldest myths in the sport – one that is set in stone at Rugby School, Warwickshire, where a plaque commemorates the schoolboy who acted "with a fine disregard for the rules of football as played in his time" by picking up the ball and running with it in 1823.

It is an attractively subversive explanation of rugby's distinctive feature. And Webb Ellis did exist, going on from Rugby to Oxford where he played in the first varsity cricket match, and then into the church.

But if Webb Ellis invented rugby, then Iron John is a book about plumbing. His reaction to the current goings-on in

South Africa would not be "look what I started", but "what on earth has this got to do with me?"

Ellis's dramatic action might be expected to leave some contemporary record or local legend but there is no mention of the legend before 1876 – 53 years after the alleged event and four years after the Rev Webb Ellis had met his maker in the south of France, removing any risk of inconvenient contradiction.

Like its American counterpart the rugby inquiry report was not published until everyone capable of contradicting it was dead.

The real truth is less clear-cut. Nobody invents human activities as basic as running with an object, or hitting it with a stick. What matters is codification – the point at which rules are devised and agreed, making it possible for a sport to spread and develop from local folk origins. When we talk of the Victorian British inventing games this is what

we really mean.

The Webb Ellis story is superfluous to Rugby school's claim on the game, which was almost certainly first codified by Old Rugbeians who went to university and wanted to carry on playing. The first rugby club, Cambridge University,

The Ellis legend is a classic invented tradition

was founded by Old Rugbeian Arthur Pell in 1839. But the legend lives on. *Rugby Warriors*, the ITV series which introduced world cup coverage, began with an uncritical retelling.

Does it really matter? On one

level, no. You could name the

world cup after Donald Duck or Robert Maxwell and the players would still want to win it because it is the world cup.

And perhaps rugby is to be

commended for wanting to

recognise its past. But if it is

going to do so, it should recogni-

se real history rather than fiction.

The school already has its

justified recognition in the

name of the game. But if the

world cup is anything at all

it is a celebration of the interna-

tionalisation of rugby, of the way a

pastime first given coherent

shape by those Victorian stu-

dents is now played in so many

countries.

The spread has been a long

process. It took 148 years from

Arthur Pell's innovation, 118

and all but a century from the first

international tour for rugby to

get round to a world cup, in

1867.

The women's game took

about 60 years to catch on and

rugby league a little under 80

to get started.

If rugby wants to commemo-

rate real heroes in keeping

with that international spirit,

the early tourists – who

endured long sea voyages and

primitive local communica-

tions to play opponents from

across the world – offer two

fine candidates.

Take your pick from R.L.

Seddon of Swinton, captain of

the first Great Britain team in

1888 and arguably interna-

tional rugby's first martyr,

driven to drowning in an Australian river

during the tour. Or Joe War-

brick, captain of the New Zea-

land Maori team which trav-

elled in the opposite direction

in the same year to play an

extraordinary total of 107

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Both would recognise this

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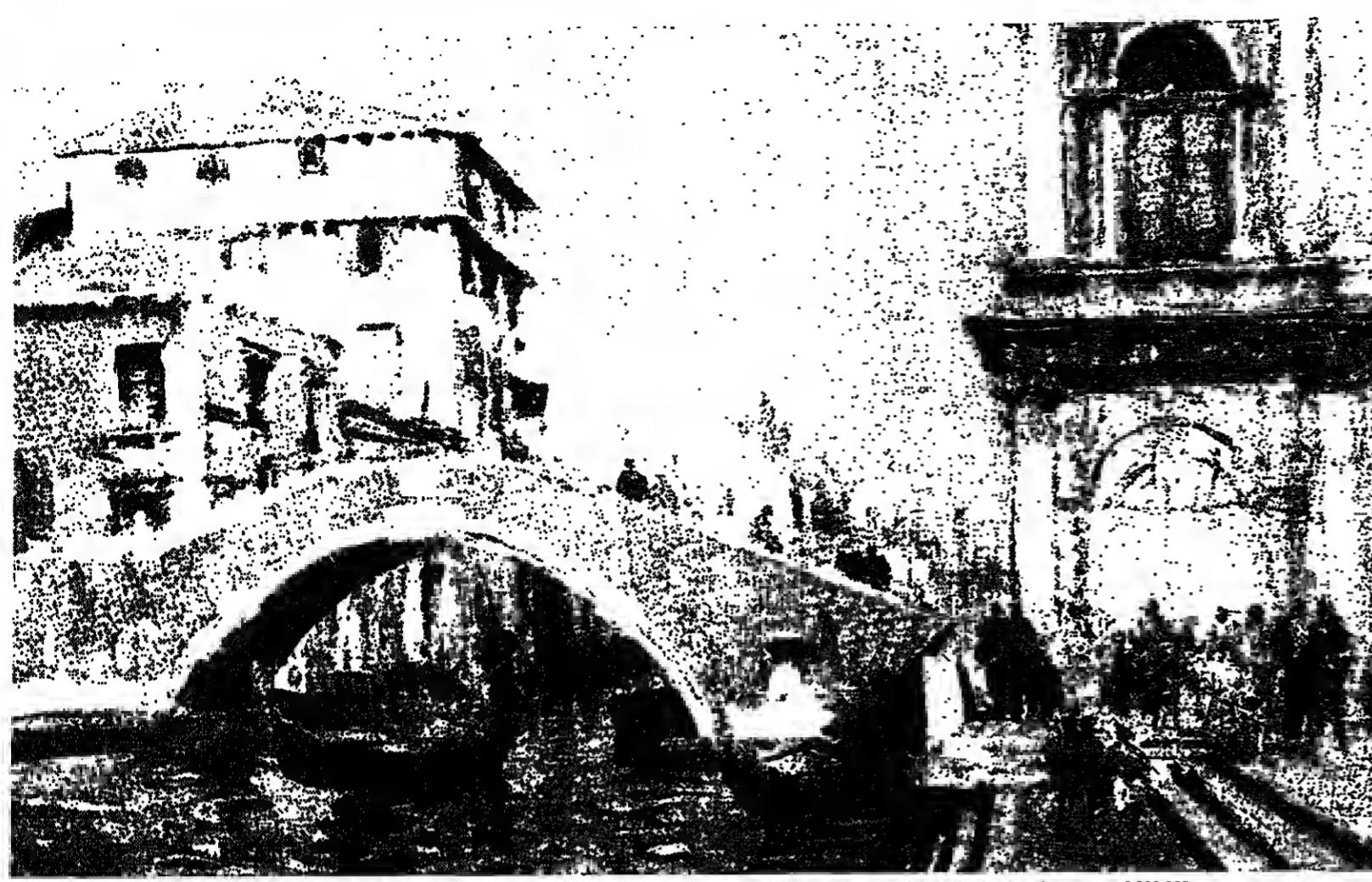
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COLLECTING



Edward Seago's 'Venetian Canal Scene', part of the MacConnel-Mason exhibition at this month's Olympia art and antiques fair and priced in the region of £30,000

All the fun of the fairs

June means antiques at Grosvenor House and Olympia. Antony Thorncroft previews them

There is hardly an antique dealer in the UK, from the most suspect Bond Street gallery in London, that has not tried to give business a much-needed shot in the arm by buying space at an antique fair.

After five years of recession, made worse by the success of the salerooms in bypassing dealers and selling direct to the collector, fairs offer a hard-hit trade the chance to present a united front and display to potential new clients a comprehensive array of antiques in a relaxed atmosphere. There is also the possibility that specialist dealers might find overlooked bargains on the stands of less knowledgeable general dealers.

But although every month has its fairs, June is the start of the social season when the rich, especially from abroad, pencil London into their diaries.

For 60 years, the Grosvenor House art and antiques fair has been waiting to tempt them with the top British dealers, plus a few chosen foreigners, laying out their most costly wares on around 90 wondrously decorated stands.

In recent years, though, there have been fewer overseas visitors, especially Americans, and Grosvenor House (which opens on Thursday, June 15) has discovered that it is self-de-



'A Quiet Moment', an 1878 oil on panel by Leon Emile Callie which is priced at £12,500 in the Polak Gallery exhibition at the Olympia fair

featuring to be seen as too exclusive. Last year it abolished datelines and its attendance rose again, to 17,500. Now, it is at pains to stress that it welcomes the more humble collector and has more objects for sale at under £10,000 than for over £100,000.

Grosvenor House has

observed, with some jealousy, the success of a parallel event, the Olympia fine art and antiques fair (from Friday, June 9) in attracting the crowds to its bazaar of more than 400 stands. Almost 40,000 visited Olympia last year and spent an estimated £21m. This is a much more earthy occasion and attracts a new breed of buyers such as Elton John, Andrew Lloyd Webber, Ivana Trump, Jeffrey Archer and Princess Michael of Kent.

The traditional dealers at Grosvenor House, the specialists in 18th century English brown furniture and the choicer Old Master paintings, might raise an eyebrow at some of the objects on offer down west London way – this month at Olympia, you can buy a stuffed kangaroo and koala bear as well as a Japanese bamboo dildo. But they can hardly overlook the brisk business, and the gains to be achieved from breaking down rigid barriers and offering odd collectables as well as craft-antiques.

Grosvenor House is not pre-

pared to cast away its reputation for style and expertise. While edging modestly down market (among the objects on offer this year is a surgeon's knife for opening veins priced at £75), it is trying to recover the ground it has lost through the art market recession by broadening its appeal to continental collectors. This year,

there will be less English

brown and more ornate continental pieces on stands like Segura, the leading French furniture dealer making his debut at this fair.

Traditions are maintained.

Noortman has a Dutch flower painting by Jan van Huysum

priced in the region of £1.5m,

and Asprey a pair of neoclassical commodes for around £850,000. At Mallett's, a pair of Georgian carved gilt wood armchairs is on offer at £300,000.

The same chairs were on

stand in 1988 for £20,000.

Polak Galleries is displaying the Kirkham harpsichord it sold nine years ago to Rudolf Nureyev. It bought the instrument back in January for £96,000 (£61,000) at Christie's in

London. It will cost many dealers upwards of £15,000 to exhibit at Olympia (much more at Grosvenor House) and, although they expect follow-up business from new contacts, they also need to shift goods at the fairs. This is their best opportunity in the year to reduce their overdrafts and raise some money for buying new stock. It is the crucial 10 days.

This gives the fairs an intensity and excitement sadly missing from the solemn inactivity of the shops and makes them well worth visiting, even for browsers.

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COLLECTING



Han dynasty earthenware dancing figures at Eskenazi in Clifford Street

Time is right for a feast from the east

The future of Chinese exports is clouded but there are splendid opportunities to buy today, says Susan Moore

Over the past 10 to 15 years, there has been a phenomenal change in many of the various markets for Chinese works of art. Hong Kong's return to China in 1997 could bring even more.

While a handful of Taiwanese and Hong Kong collectors have forced prices to millions of dollars for the finest Imperial mark and period porcelains, a traditional field of collecting in the Far East, a whole new market has sprung up in response to 'excavations' on mainland China.

In this realm, however, laws

of supply and demand simply do not apply. There has been a huge influx of ancient tombware on the market in Hong Kong - due, obviously, to official connivance at some (probably minor) level. At every level, though, supply appears to have fuelled demand.

Until recently, Chinese collectors never touched anything out of the ground, and early Chinese art was sold on the international market. Now, perhaps 90 per cent of dealers in the Far East sell tombware, most of it mass-produced and of little aesthetic, archaeological or monetary value.

In relation to the quality and cost of western art on the market, most oriental art also represents extraordinary good value. For the time being, at least, London remains the pre-eminent marketplace, and there are some particularly rich and diverse offerings this month.

Early Chinese art - 8th century BC to 9th century AD - is the focus of Eskenazi's annual show at 10 Clifford Street W1 (until July 8). As usual, there are spectacular pieces.

Most covetable, perhaps, is a pair of 10 cm-high incense holders of the late Eastern Zhou or early Western Han period (3rd to 2nd century BC), each in the form of a tortoise or turtle. These are made out of cowrie shells mounted lavishly in bronze and inlaid with gold in patterns of swirling clouds and silver wire resembling waves. They appear to have no parallel.

A close second is one of the most glorious Tang court



Incomparable... a Ghandara stone torso of a Bodhisattva at John Eskenazi's Old Bond Street gallery

ladies you could ever hope to see. Her modeller obviously enjoyed himself enormously. The elaborately coiffed and folded hair is adorned with flower-head gilt hairpins and gilt comb, and her wrists have simple gold bracelets.

With her right hand, she plucks the folds of her dress, while her coat is draped nonchalantly across one shoulder. Its empty sleeves hanging down her back are a marvellous conceit. Much of the original polychromy remains, from deep rose pink on her coat to traces of floral patterns on various of her garments.

Such a lady might well have eyed an exceptionally large and elaborate gilt silver cosmetic box, the grandest piece in the show. The strongest, and most powerful, is a starkly simplified wooden female figure in bold red and black chequerboard dress. With her dour, downcast expression, you could be forgiven for thinking her 19th century American folk art, rather than Chinese from the 4th to 3rd century BC.

Prices range from £500 to £140,000.

Dominating the London Chi-

nes art season, however, is jadite, the material traditionally

A whole new market has sprung up in response to excavations on the Chinese mainland

valued most highly by the Chinese. Shows at the British Museum and the Percival David Foundation are complemented by various dealers' exhibitions.

S. Marchant & Sons, at 120 Kensington Church Street W8, presents around 100 post-archaic Chinese jades (until June 23) to mark the firm's 70th anniversary. Carter Fine Art, which rises from the ashes of Blaauw's, offers 'Archaisms & Naturalism: Chinese Jades from the Kirk Norton Collection,' at Duke's Hotel, St James's Place SW1, from June 10-14.

Two of the summer's most interesting and rewarding shows take Buddhism as their broad theme. 'Images of Faith' is John Eskenazi's inaugural show in his London gallery at 15 Old Bond Street W1 (until June 23), and it is not to be missed.

Goedhuis has reversed the trend in the art trade by reverting from private dealer back to shopkeeper. The inaugural show in his new prem-

The dominant presence at this wide-ranging feast is a monumental Ghandara stone torso, 164cm high, of a Bodhisattva of the 1st or 2nd century AD. The powerful musculature of this heroic figure, from what is now north-east Pakistan, is softened by fluid drapery and ornamented with finely carved jewellery. There has been no comparable piece on the market for many years.

The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York has snapped up a Tibetan gilt copper-seated Buddha dating from the late 12th or early 13th century, one of the earliest surviving Tibetan bronzes and the largest known. (I would have the rare Khmer sandstone image of Vajradhara, which is probably from Banteay Chmar and almost certainly a portrait of King Jayavarman VII, who believed himself the Buddha incarnate.)

Another highlight is a spectacular rug woven in the shape of a tiger pelt and made in north-western China in the 17th or 18th century. Prices: £3,000 to £500,000.

Spink's 'The Mirror of Mind: Art of Vajrayana Buddhism' (5-7 King Street SW1, June 9-30), is the largest and finest show of Tibetan art that it has staged. There are bronzes, paintings, textiles and photographs plus delightful painted wooden furniture and intriguing 13th century central Asian ivories that bear witness to both Chinese and Tibetan influences.

Spink also offers a more general Far Eastern art show, and the Oriental Art Gallery (4 Davies Street W1, June 12-24) another impressively wide-ranging selection of Oriental works of art to suit most pockets. More Oriental art is to be found this month at auction and at London's three major June antiques fairs.

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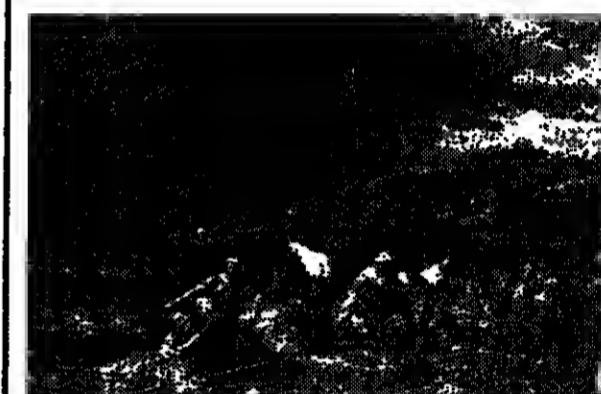
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BOOKS

Sentences without verbs, nouns put to use as verbs, adverbs confused with adjectives, the absurd "would have... would have" construction, the jumbling of vernacular spoken forms among the literary, the "going to" instead of shall, the breathless gush alternating with the syllable decree - are Miss Winterson's self-conscious streams of consciousness and wayward, undisciplined and hmonless emptyings of intellectual bathwater really to be classified as essays?

That they are published as essays, and on ecstasy and effrontery to boot, is asserted

This stream-of-consciousness collection of essays resembles a self-indulgent journal, writes Brian Sewell

by the sub-title, but the effrontery is hers, for they bear scant resemblance to the elegant compositions of past essayists, even of this century - Aldous Huxley, Lytton Strachey, Peter Quennell, Peter Vansittart, Geoffrey Grigson and their ilk - and have as little structure, symmetry and polish as a broadcast interview with an amateur. The first essay purports to

be an art. The reader must groan when Miss Winterson, who on her own admission knew (and still knows) nothing about painting, was, by a picture in the window of a shop, inspired to become an expert on aesthetics and read the works of Roger Fry.

Fry was an old fraud of Bloomsbury days whose carelessness enthusiasm and bigoted hollering we have wrongfully forgiven entirely because he

invented post-Impressionism (knowing nothing of German art, Expressionism was his first attempt at a defining term for Cézanne and his contemporaries), and ever since he has been held in awe, though dead for more than 60 years.

For the awe-stricken Miss Winterson, coming upon him after Walter Pater (Lawks a' mercy), "Fry was the one I wanted... a perfect guide", and within a page or so she

ART OBJECTS
by Jeanette Winterson

Jonathan Cape £9.99, 192 pages

asks "Why doesn't the picture do something?... Why should I admire it? Quite clearly it doesn't admire me..."

Such sensibility (of which, later, she boasts much) is

such as is only astonishing - "Naked I came into the world, but brush

strokes cover me..."

Drifting to incoherence in this attempt, she deserts art for literature and any excursion from it that takes her capricious fancy, Gertrude Stein, patronage and sex among them; with pepperpot abandon she continues to use the word, but by "art" she invariably means the craft of wordsmith, at which she herself is clumsy and inept.

Losing her hold on argument she retreats into enigma; consider, ignoring the intrusive "or", "see outside of a dead vision is not an optical illusion", one of many portentous absurdities that one must assume to be proverbs mis-translated from the Russian, or Chinese whispers echoing the Delphic Oracle, but enchanted by its seeming mystery, Miss Winterson repeats it as a chorus.

Repetition then becomes an irritating trick of style. This chubby little book contains nothing worth the reading; it has the character of a journal self-indulgently and with utmost self-awareness kept by a menopausal madam on a residential writing course in Little Piddington - poor stuff compared with the heartfelt but burnished words of Virginia Woolf, Vanessa Bell, Katherine Mansfield and other Bloomsberries whom Miss Winterson admires.

"All good writers aspire towards precision," she proclaims inwards - "but precision, the essence of the essay, quite escaped her."

Informative cell mate

Howard Marks on a guide to British penal institutions

At present there are about 50,000 prisoners in English and Welsh jails and about a million people either on parole, or probation, or directly affected by the incarceration of a loved one. To the rest of the British people, however, the realities of what a prison sentence entails are shrouded in secrecy.

If only in so far it provides information and helps prisoners and their families sensibly cope with confinement, the publication of Mark Leech's *The Prisoners' Handbook* is overdue and welcome. The book also serves as an excellent source for anyone remotely interested in contemporary British penal policy and practice.

The book gives detailed and comprehensive treatment of prison law, the intricacies of daily prison routine, bureaucratic hierarchies, official reports, and explanations and advice relating to everything from prison visiting rules to factors determining release on parole.

Over half the book is devoted to an institution-by-institution account of almost 140 English and Welsh prisons with telephone and fax numbers, historical background, names of senior officials (when available) and the identity of local MPs. Official reports on individual prisons are summarised, and inmates give their general opinions on each establishment. We are provided with detailed schedules of the regime (locking, unlocking, meals, work, recreation, etc.); particulars of educational, vocational, and recreational programmes and facilities; and accounts of the standard of accommodation and quality of food. Inevitably, this section of the book takes on the character of a Michelin guide book, lacking only the awarding of rosettes and stars.

A reader could be forgiven for deducing that prisoners are able to choose the prison in which they would like to serve their sentence. Certain comments compel such a conclusion: "Staff here are not vindictive, though if you're going to behave in that way that gets you placed on report, you shouldn't be thinking about going to Oxford [prison] anyway." In fact, prisoners have little say about where they are sent.

Imprisonment remains society's favourite way of satisfying the craving for retribution, while paying lip service towards rehabilitation of the offender. But over the centuries, incarceration, execution and corporal punishment have proved ineffective against the perpetration of criminal conduct by the needy and greedy.

The reason, of course, is the high degree of confidence the perpetrator has in getting away with crime without being caught. This will not change until the detection rates approach 100 per cent.

Leech claims that a lengthy wait at Wandsworth prison reception provided the impetus to write his book. Having been through at least 20 reception areas, and having suffered the consequences of ignorance of each prison's workings, I applaud this attempt to create a manual of information from which prisoners, their families and friends, and others concerned with the British system of justice, can benefit.

My own view is that although prison privatisation will, at least initially, cut costs to the taxpayers, the prisoner

is bound to suffer more at the hands of corner-cutting, profit-motivated US companies than at the hands of relatively free-spending government agencies.

Present abuses such as those complained of by Leech (no refunds for defective goods bought by prisoners from prison canteens, very high mark-ups on all goods sold to prisoners by HM Prison Services) are bound to increase under privatisation. Riots prompted by insufficient or bad food and poor recreational facilities occur with alarming frequency in private prisons in the US.

Leech is correct in stating that prison rules, official HM Prison Service guidelines and statements of principle on the rights of convicted and unconvicted prisoners are virtually impossible to acquire from prison authorities while incarcerated. The reprinting in one volume of texts is, by itself, sufficient justification for the purchase of this book by any person recently, or about to be, arrested.

There is also invaluable information on how to apply for bail, submit direct appeals, change lawyers, legally chal-

lenge decisions on segregation and categorisation, and obtain grants and support available to discharged prisoners.

However, a serious omission occurs in the section dealing with foreign prisoners in UK prisons. The percentage of the prison population made up of foreign nationals is increasing. Repatriation to a prison in one's own country is one of the main priorities of every imprisoned foreigner. Accordingly, one expects far more from Leech than merely, "if you require further details of repatriation, your prison probation officer will be able to tell you" - especially after reading several pages on the unhelpful nature of prison authorities.

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At the heart of the novel are Matteo and Sophie, an ill-assorted couple who meet over lunch at their parents' idyllic lakeside home in northern Italy. Sophie, alienated daughter of a prosperous German banker, is immediately attracted to the dreamy Matteo and they set off for India together, having first married to satisfy the anxieties of their bourgeois parents.

The year is 1975 and they join the hippie trail, drifting from place to



Ghanian Afaa Ayoko is buried in a coffin carved like a lion to represent his prowess as a hunter. One of 152 photographs of elaborate funeral caskets from 'Going into Darkness: Fantastic Coffins from Africa' by Thierry Secretan (Thames and Hudson £16.95, 127 pages).

Why nightmares take over

All of us are prey to a daily dose of delusion, disorientation and delirium which would quickly send us to the psychiatrist but for one saving grace: it happens when we are asleep. Our dreams, hallucinatory, elusive, confusing, are in many ways like the waking experience of the mentally ill.

According to Allan Hobson, dreaming is not like a psychosis, it is a psychosis.

This is a great convenience for the scientist as, unlike the clinically ill, a dreamer can be roused, interrogated, and then allowed to go back to sleep - and monitored all the while with an ever-expanding repertoire of instruments from brain-wave recorders to CAT scanners.

When the sleeper wakes, the brain changes state, and so does the mind. For Hobson, as for an increasing number of cognitive scientists, there is no difference between the two. The brain and the mind are a unity: a brain-mind. A dream is one of an infinite number of possible sets of self-generated neuronal signal patterns. The brain is working just as hard during a dream as when we are awake, but in a different state.

Hobson is a Harvard psychiatrist and neurologist who has spent most of his scientific career studying sleep and dreaming, and pondering the implications of the results for his wakeful patients. The broad conclusion he offers in this book is that we need a new way of looking at the brain, of understanding the states it can sustain and the transitions between them.

A mental illness is both a strange experience and a "dysfunctional brain-mind state". By combining clinical studies with the testimony of dreamers, he builds a simple model of the key variables of brain states.

In Hobson's brain-mind, three things

matter above all. There is electrical activity, which is high in waking and dreaming, low in normal sleep. That activity represents, in part, information processing. The information can come mainly from outside, when awake, or from inside the brain, in the dreamer. And there is what he calls the mode of activation, which depends on which of the major classes of neurotransmitters is dominant. Two of these substances, norepinephrine and serotonin, are chemically amines and are emitted from neurons which are most

active when we are awake. Another, acetylcholine, appears to trigger the dream state.

A fairly simple model, then, and one with limited ambitions in some ways. He seems to have little interest in neurons and neural networks. He simply wants a working model which will help some of his patients.

And the idea that "the common cause of normal and abnormal delirium is a sudden shift in the balance of brain chemicals" does offer clues about how to treat people who are suffering the adverse effects of such shifts.

In other ways, though, Hobson's ambitions are considerable. He wants everyone to jettison psychoanalysis, for a start. Freud's original ambition, shared with William James, to reach a unified theory of brain and mind, was on the right lines.

His retreat into introspection and interpretation was a tragic diversion. Now, says

Hobson, we have the tools to do the job Freud first defined.

Nor does he have much time for orthodox drug-based psychiatry. He advocates "scientific humanism", which may permit short-term prescription of a drug to jolt the patient's brain out of an undesirable state, but then relies on the brain influencing its own state - volition - to produce a cure.

It is hard to say how convincing all this will be to other psychiatrists, working at that fine margin between either making up your mind or being made up by your mind. The details of the underlying model are still too vague to be satisfying. To apply the language of "tension" and "pressure" to neurochemical systems, to speak of the brain-mind system being "thrown out of balance", is to offer the kind of redescription which reminds one how little we actually know about what happens between our ears.

But it is one of Hobson's virtues that for all his enthusiasm for his theory, he acknowledges this. His closing recollection of a psychotic patient he treated 30 years ago, one who has reappeared at intervals throughout the book.

The treatments then current were no help to the man. Although Hobson would now prescribe a different therapy, he does not sound especially confident of a cure: "I know too much not to realise how ignorant I am, and how much we still have to learn."

It is a downbeat ending for a popular science book, but one befitting a neuroscientist who submits his ideas to a discipline perhaps even stricter than scientific criticism, being honest about his ability to treat real people in distress.

Jon Turney

Fiction/Joan Smith
Lost souls in search of enlightenment

purposefulness and self-knowledge than Desai's characters ever achieve.

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The year is 1975 and they join the hippie trail, drifting from place to

place in a marijuana haze, always searching for the next revelation.

Desai, who is of German-Indian extraction, writes vividly about the "ragged white mendicants in loose pyjamas and handkerchiefs (who) milled around ashrams and sadhus and yogis to the mirth and disbelief of Indians".

They fall sick, quarrel among themselves and disappear overnight, taking off for the distant hills where yet another guru is rumoured to offer new forms of spiritual enlightenment.

Matteo finally attaches himself to

the Mother, an elderly mystic whose creed is just as vague, as all the others the couple have tried. The Mother's ashram does have the advantage of being neat and tidy, which provides some small comfort when Sophie becomes pregnant and gives birth to first a son and then a daughter.

Unlike Matteo, Sophie has had enough of India, in time she returns to Italy, taking the children to live with Matteo's parents, unintentionally reproducing the kind of dislocated upbringing which caused Matteo's rootlessness in the first place. When the book opens she is back in India, against her will, summoned to the hospital where Matteo lies ill with hepatitis, his body disfigured by boils.

What Desai seems to be attempting in *Journey to Ithaca* is a narrative form capable of illustrating her idea that pilgrimage is a

type of flight. To reinforce this point she takes a leap backwards in time and introduces a third main character: Laila, a French-educated Egyptian girl who joins a troupe of glamorous Indian dancers some time between the two world wars.

The incompatibility of two cultures, Indian and European, has always interested Desai, as has the sense of dislocation and homelessness encountered by people who try to move from one to the other; few novels have treated the subject with such narrative force as *Bomber's Bombay*.

In *Journey to Ithaca* she covers similar territory but her characters never fully come to life; they lack the vivacity evident in her earlier books, as though the journey has been too long for them and for their creator.

Mother, a cult figure in her own right and the guru to whom Matteo later attaches himself. But the effect of these shifts in time and emphasis is to interrupt the novel's natural flow, revealing its purpose to be rather grimly didactic.

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Plight of the pachyderms
Michael Thompson-Noel finds them being squeezed to death

Remarkably, there are a surfeit of elephants in parts of Africa, where public outrage at their bloody slaughter by ivory poachers inspired such an emotional and successful worldwide campaign for their protection that southern African countries now want to resume controlled trade in ivory as a way of helping conservation pay for itself.

But what of the "other" elephant - the Asian one? Once, Asian elephants roamed freely in their millions from Syria to northern China. But now they are reduced to small and frightened herds, cowering in fragments of their former territory. It is reckoned doubtful whether as many as 50,000 Asian elephants survive in the wild, whereas Africa's growing elephant population exceeds 500,000.

Ironically, the "forgotten" elephant suffers far less from poaching than the larger, mammoth-tusked African species, because only certain Asian males carry tusks. What is harming the Asian elephant is the explosive increase in human population and the massive consequent loss of elephant habitat.

In 1991 Mark Shand's first elephant book, *Travels on My Elephant*, skipped to No 1 in the best-seller lists and won him the travel writer of the year award. Eric Newby, no less, called it a "pachyderm triumph", which must have guaranteed a sequel.

So off we go again, and an enjoyable ride it is, for this time Shand is in the company of the tiny and aristocratic Parbati Barua, Asia's only female elephant trainer and rider, who guides Shand on a journey across the elephants' northern migratory route, through the tea gardens of West Bengal and along the rarely visited Himalayan corridor to her ancestral home in Assam.

Their first meeting, writes Shand, was a minefield of awkwardness. He found himself staring in astonishment, for here he was, anxious about meeting one of India's greatest elephant experts, and there she was, a tiny creature in a simple beige and crimson cotton sari with a plump-coloured cardigan over her narrow shoulders, clutching a navy-blue

Killings are on the increase. More villagers are being killed by elephants, and more elephants by villagers. At one point he visits the family of a tea plucker who has been killed. Someone pulls aside a blanket. What lies underneath is hardly human.

Looking at this unfortunate woman, barely distinguishable from the mud in which she lay, Shand says he could see clearly the intense rage of the elephant - persecuted, shot at, and probably starving - as it had picked her up and slammed her into the ground.

(Elephants are intensely social and intelligent. Formerly, females would come and rescue offspring which were lost, but now they do not dare. They would be shot at and killed. So there is a growing population of abandoned orphans. The hatred of man is thought to be engendering

BOOKS

Mixed blessings

Malcolm Rutherford reviews the varied life of Lord Archer

secretary to the Conservative leader, Edward Heath. Such was the workload that he decided he needed a deputy. The post was advertised, Archer applied and was just about to be appointed when Whitelaw intervened. In no sense, said Whitelaw, was Archer a suitable candidate. The appointment did not go ahead.

According to Michael Crick's book, Archer took the rejection with some stoicism. Asked what he was going to do next, he replied: "I haven't decided yet, but either become an MP or make a million."

In the event, he did both. He became MP for Louth in a by-election in 1969 but was obliged to resign in 1974 when he faced near-bankruptcy as a result of unwise investments. Then he took up a career as a writer and made a million many times over. His fortunes had fluctuated long

enough to get him a job teaching in an English public school and then to be accepted for the Diploma in Education at Oxford where he met many of his future friends.

He also worked hard at what he was good at. No one who consistently ran the 100 yards in under 10 seconds and who could switch to doing well in the hurdles should be underestimated. Another talent was for organisation. Under his presidency of the Oxford University Athletics Club, Oxford beat Cambridge in every event.

Fundraising and name-dropping (the two seem to go together) developed at the same time.

This part of his life has never stopped. The only slight problem, as Crick points out, is that Archer tends to spend a lot in order to raise rather less than originally targeted: the final figures sometimes include sums that

would have been raised in any case. Apart from survival, however, his greatest talent is the ability to tell stories. It is a slightly ambiguous phrase. Archer has told a lot of stories about himself, not all of them verifiable. But the fact remains that a man who was regarded as near-literate even by some of his best friends did sit down in financial adversity and write himself out of trouble.

One of the politicians who helped him was David Owen, whose wife Debbie is a literary agent and was not overwhelmed by the draft of Archer's first novel, *Not a Penny More*. Owen picked it up for eight reading one Friday night, and liked it.

As a book, *Stranger Than Fiction* is both too long and too kind. Crick has almost fallen for the idea that Archer is simply an amiable rogue whose misdemeanours can be overlooked. When Margaret Thatcher put him forward as a life peer, the scrutiny committee wisely objected. It was John Major who got him in by saying he would be a "Conservative working peer". Maybe there is some political work to come.

Acting as a parent

Martin Hoyle looks at Olivier and Redgrave as father-figures



Sir Michael Redgrave: as remote as Olivier at home

These two books by the sons of famous actors have less in common than one might suppose. Corin Redgrave's beautifully written memoir of his father, Sir Michael, is an attempt to fill out and clarify our personal knowledge of that most complex and aloof stylist.

Olivier's book concerns his

search for himself, a search launched by his incapacity to grieve for the death of a remote parent. Each deals with

coming to terms with perceived weaknesses of a giant figure. Both test Oscar Wilde's dictum that we rarely forgive our parents. In each book the author's mother is tantalisingly glimpsed, a figure so emotionally provocative that one feels that, amid the soul-baring, something is still being hidden. There the similarities end. The Redgrave book is moving and perceptive. Olivier's is well-meaning tosh.

Richard Olivier's downfall

was college in the US. In spite of the token self-deprecating grin in his rite-of-passage saga ("It is difficult to explain how, but I knew this man was not bullshit"), he has swayed

MICHAEL REDGRAVE: MY FATHER
by Corin Redgrave
Richard Cohen Books £17.99, 240 pages

SHADOW OF THE STONE HEART: A SEARCH FOR MANHOOD
by Richard Olivier
Macmillan, £9.99, 256 pages

concludes that his father, like every other actor one has met, had nothing in his life besides professionally-assumed false identities.

Some conclusions are valid if commonplace. But Olivier's kernel of self-knowledge is embarrassingly chronicled via American "multi-cultural men's conferences" guided by such gurus as Malidoma P. Some, an "African medicine man and double Ph.D.", and other "experts".

The American twin gods of emotional outpouring and physical fitness lead to an English friend's three broken ribs and Olivier's disastrously spontaneous pole-vault with a broom-handle (what happened to the psychiatrist's couch?).

The impression is of a mixture of pop-fan hysteria, prayer meeting and Nuremberg rally.

One sympathises with stats of pain, as when Plowright smoothly tells an interviewer that the theatre takes precedence over her family - but much of it strikes the sceptical European as mumbo-jumbo.

The Anglo-Saxon aloofness that marked Sir Michael Redgrave's acting style had its roots in his private persona.

Besides his political commitments (the wartime BBC banned him for his left-wing sympathies), he was reticent on other matters. The most moving passage in his son's book describes the actor's admission of bisexuality to the grown-up Corin, in a careful, slow sentence of almost Henry James-like precision, before being racked by convulsive sobs.

As a father-figure Redgrave could be as remote as Olivier, though he was always close to Vanessa and after infant neglect grew to be proud of Lynn. One feels there was love in the household, however baffled, holding back, uncertain how to show itself. Ironically the children adored the American-Indian ex-GI who came to live round the corner: the father's love for some years. But I find the references to their mother the most haunting.

The actress Rachel Kempson - at 35 (last Sunday) still dignified and beautiful - is fleetingly observed throughout the book, desperately tolerant but bewildered, a grief-stricken wraith. Other people's guilt is the hardest to bear.

Redressing an earlier evasion

Anthony Quinn on a new biography of Kingsley Amis

While his *Memoirs* (1991) were prodigiously unreflective on the subject of friends and foes, Kingsley Amis rather skimped on the more problematic business of telling us about himself. By the end of the book - a compendium of hilarious and frequently horrible score-settting - one suspected that self-examination had been wisely avoided: Amis might not like what he found.

Now the matter has been taken out of his hands in the shape of this authorised biography which, one hopes, will redress the effects of that evasion and place Amis squarely centre-stage. In his preface, Eric Jacobs says that Amis "has not asked me to remove anything at all that might seem to show him in a less than shining light". To which you would say bravo, were there anything here that

KINGSLEY AMIS: A BIOGRAPHY
by Eric Jacobs
Routledge & Kegan Paul £17.99, 382 pages

Amis could reasonably object to: as it is the only really eye-opening material concerns the hectic promiscuity of Amis's middle years, and is recounted in a tone close to indulgent; if not congratulatory.

Jacobs, for the most part, traces the same ground as *Memoirs*, beginning with Amis's cosseted childhood in the drab South London suburb of Norbury. His mother, Peggy, died on her only child - at the age of 12 he was still being spoon-fed. It seems to have set the pattern for a lifetime of other people "doing for" him: now in his 70s, Amis's ex-wife, Hilary, makes his tea while his husband, Lord Kilmarock, makes his bed.

His father, a clerk at Colman's Mustard, exerted a more confining influence, though he had a gift for mimicry and physical clowning that Amis would inherit and later deploy to brilliant effect in his fiction.

It also won him a degree of popularity during his stint in the army, where "Bill" (as he was known to his fellows) quickly became alerted to issues of class and authority - perfect grounding, in other words, for a potential novelist keenly aware of social inequity, of the "wrong people being in charge". He emerged from the service in 1946 braced with hope for the future, envisaging a new Labour-led England full of girls and drinks and jazz and books and decent



houses and decent jobs and being your own boss".

It was that buoyant, bohemian optimism which fuelled the mood of *Lucky Jim*, Amis's groundbreaking debut, while the milieu suggested itself when he visited Philip Larkin in Leicester University one afternoon in 1946. Girls and drinks and jazz and books - his own - followed thick and fast in the wake of its success; so did marriage and kids and a bewildering number of assignations and borrowed beds: as Amis played Lothario throughout the 1950s and 60s.

Here is enacted the basic drama of the fiction - whether to be a decent bloke or a s--- with the balance

tipping more often towards the latter than is comfortable. Similarly, stories of Amis drunkenly gatecrashing a friend's lunch party and stomping around the house are uneasily detailed by Jacobs: "Only his considerable resources of charm allowed Amis to go away with this kind of drunken boorishness". One wonders quite how far that "charm" stretched. In another, this bad behaviour might provoke a round of tut-tutting; but in a writer who will lambast some poor fool for not standing his round or forgetting his wallet it inevitably renders his moral code pretty suspect.

Jacobs has read the Amis canon with unimpeachable thoroughness

and makes plausible connections between the life and the work; he is particularly good on Amis's much-advertised swagger - or maybe stagger - from Left to Right and the changing presentation of women in his books during the years of marriage to Jane Howard.

But essentially he is stuck with recycling material already familiar, and more amusingly presented, in the *Memoirs*. It might be no more than a sentence. Jacobs will explain how George Steiner failed a crucial test of Amisian etiquette: "He did not keep the drink flowing at dinner parties"; but it is not a patch on Amis's own reference to the "drink-

less hiatuses" chez Steiner.

There is also a tendency towards intrusive editorialising at one point Amis anticipates hating America so much he imagines returning home "by about Bonfire Night [5 November]". And you don't imagine any reader needing help on "the TLS [Times Literary Supplement]".

It is not bad, although that, for all his professional trufling, Jacobs has been rather seduced by his subject. For now, his partial and workmanlike biography will have to suffice until somebody does to Amis what *Memoirs* did to the world - so far nobody has dared. Lucky him.

He endorses the theory of

the three-layered man (outer physical identity; softer, caring qualities; the wild man beneath it all) and the need to blend all three. He throws up a variant on the Oedipus complex: he loved his nanny and resented his mother (Lord Olivier being either absent or emotionally distant). His hit on the wild fancy that he felt unwanted because his mother, Joan Plowright, was playing an unmarried pregnant schoolgirl when carrying him; and

Impact of 'Saturn'

amounts to the purchase of votes with other peoples' money.

The state's rise has - as Alexis de Tocqueville, the 19th-century analyst of American democracy, warned it would - helped turn the British into a nation of grown-up children. Yet what do the authors recommend to cure the grievous

SATURN'S CHILDREN: HOW THE STATE DEVOURS LIBERTY, PROSPERITY AND VIRTUE

by Alan Duncan and Dominic Hobson
Scolar-Polity, £16.99, 400 pages

diseases they describe?

They propose leaving public spending on defence and the National Health Service alone. They support the earmarking of taxes. They also recommend unspecified reforms of the police, along with legalisation of hard drugs. They advocate the "liquidation of state education", but only after the state has been created, over a generation, an endowment fund for schools with a collective value of £240bn.

More surprisingly, in view of the cost, they propose a basic income for all. They also sup-

port a shift to a comprehensive expenditure tax. Finally, they recommend immediate spending cuts of about £20bn, covering such items as overseas aid, agricultural subsidies, student grants and contributions to the European Union.

All this is intended to achieve their long-term goal of reducing public expenditure from 15-20 per cent of GDP from the present 40 per cent. Would it do so? The answer is no. The £20bn in cuts, implausible as they are, amount to only 3 per cent of GDP. Meanwhile, defence, health, law and order, and interest payments alone are some 13 per cent of GDP.

The proposed basic income of £23.4bn a week (£2,758 a year) per adult would cost £128bn a year, which is 40 per cent more than the existing social security budget and around 18 per cent of GDP. This could be afforded, argue the authors, since personal allowances would be eliminated, so transferring £29.5bn of so-called "tax expenditures" in 1994-95 into open public spending.

Nevertheless, public spending would end up at more than 30 per cent of GDP, even excluding areas like education, transport, personal social services, industry, housing, agriculture, overseas aid and employment. These proposals

are desirable in themselves - some are and some are not - but they would not cut the share of public spending in GDP. Indeed, any worthwhile basic income scheme is bound, in practice, to increase both the share of public spending in GDP and the marginal rate of tax facing most people.

This is disappointing, but inescapable. Maybe the rise of the state could have been prevented (although this seems unlikely), but it is almost impossible to reverse. The institutions that would have existed if there had been no welfare state are lacking. Withdrawal of the state from any major area of activity would leave a vacuum politicians would rush to fill. It could be done only with a long-term plan, agreed by all major parties, over a generation.

Alternatively, it might follow a fiscal crisis: The authors are probably correct in judging Tony Blair's moralistic communitarianism to be empty.

The present government, though dedicated to limiting

public spending, has succeeded only in stabilising its share in GDP. It seems inconceivable that a Labour government would not, in practice, raise the ratio substantially. Would it also obtain consent to higher taxes? If not, another round of high public debt and inflation might persuade the British to accept the radicalism that is out of the question today. More probably, the hyperactivity of the state is an ailment that must be endured, because it cannot be cured.

Regrettably, Dr Spitzer does not adduce any medical testimony concerning the psyche of those who are obsessive about firearms.

Myself, I tend to regard with mild suspicion people who allow any enthusiasm the status of a sex substitute. But when it becomes a sex *obsession* then we are all in trouble.

Or am I being insensitive? Not long ago, I remember a broadsheet editorial referring to the "sado-masochistic community". And later a police

inspector used the same reassuring collective noun to cat-

ergorise a group of paedophiles who exchanged data about murdering children.

Now we know that some of these gun freaks are so crazy they will blow up a whole nursery school in order to kill a couple of federal officials on the sixth floor. But they must surely be exceptional? Or are these urges latent, as the Washington Post has recently been implying, throughout the National Rifle Association?

The NRA is the most powerful single-issue lobby in the US. Founded in 1872 by a couple of officers in the Union Army to correct the poor marksmanship displayed by units in the Civil War, it has now a membership of well over 3m and a budget of \$90m.

And it knows its way round the marble halls and concrete canyons of Washington DC where, as is known, cash and lobbying rank *pari passu*. The "Political Victory Fund" dispensed at the last election \$1.7m to Senate and House candidates, plus \$958,000 direct expenditure for or against

("negative campaigning"), individual candidates.

Political clout of this weight is hard to take on. But consider some of the statistics which Dr Spitzer has most painstakingly assembled, and corroborated in a series of comprehensive footnotes because this book is far from being

just a polemical tract.

Now we seem to know how many guns are loose in US society. But a sufficient number to equip the entire British Army were stolen in 1994 alone. More than 2m are sold by licensed dealers. Last year there were recorded some 600,000 (this category includes, I presume, killing "prowlers". neighbours

THE POLITICS OF GUN CONTROL

by Dr Robert J. Spitzer
Chatham House Publishers
\$34.95, 203 pages

who drop by after dark to inquire about a missing dog, and teenagers in Halloween masks who ring the bell to solicit a gift).

In an average year there are some 40,000 "firearm deaths", roughly the same number as "automobile fatalities". Americans commit four times as many homicides per 100,000 people as do the British, eight times as many as the Japanese.

All very shocking. But on such a scale that it is now outside the possibility of control, like alcohol and drugs. For instance, and scattering litter, come to that.

So the least good part of the book is the bleating away

about how the gun lobby has got it all wrong, modern criminologists show that the deterrent value of a gun against a potential criminal is virtually nil (I do not believe this) and a lot of detail on the progressive legislators' efforts to try to reassess control.

Of course, there is one way in which order could be restored although it involves approaching the opposite direction.

For 300 years gentlemen were taught fencing and sabre drill from childhood. When they went about their business it was natural and expected, that they should carry a sword. Nor was this pure formality. I have seen a graduate of Bad Tolz pick up a table knife and disarm a dagger-wielding assailant in the space of a few seconds.

Then, for about 100 years the streets became relatively safe. Fencing became simply a "sport", and citizens no longer carried arms as a matter of course.

Today, though, in the US there are some 2,000 burglaries every night of the year, and at least a third of these intrusions involve physical assault or rape. Street crime is so widespread that it is no longer quantified on a national basis.

SUMMER FESTIVALS

Something ecstatic, something dramatic

Andrew Clark introduces the Financial Times' guide to the festivals that will entertain all summer long

It's summer - it's festival time. Time for a change of tempo, a change of scenery and, with luck, a change of climate. And time for something out of the ordinary to excite the musical and theatrical palate.

In a world where leisure has become an industry and music a marketing tool, no self-respecting holiday destination in mainland Europe can afford to be without its festival. It may be no more than a handful of performances on a temporary stage - but call it a festival, and a place on the tourist map is assured.

The FT guide is selective. It concentrates on festivals with an established reputation and dependable standards of

performance. There are festivals for connoisseurs, such as Bayreuth, Feldkirch and Pescaro; festivals where atmosphere and setting are as important as the music, such as Spoleto and Granada, or Glimmerglass and Santa Fe in the US; and others, such as Aix, where the cuisine is an essential part of the experience.

The most stimulating festivals are those which retain a strong local identity and input, and have an unmistakable programme. On that reckoning, Kuhmo, Vadstena and Wexford are among the strongest, and Montreux and Munich the weakest.

Between the two extremes there is something for everyone. We have deliberately omitted eastern Europe - the biggest growth area, but one where marketing, accessibility and quality control lag behind western standards. By the millennium, the situation could be very different.

Of the main festivals, Salzburg surpasses itself this year with five new opera productions. Gérard Mortier has been forced to concentrate on box-office favourites, but apart from *La traviata*, each production breaks the mould of Salzburg tradition.

In *Le nozze di Figaro*, for example, the Vienna Philharmonic - until now the festival's resident Mozart orchestra - has been ousted from the pit by the Chamber

Orchestra of Europe. Bryn Terfel (Figaro) and Dmitri Hvorostovsky (the Count) will appear on the same stage for the first time since the 1989 Cardiff Singer of the World Competition. Hvorostovsky took first prize then. Salzburg, which is fast becoming Terfel's second home, offers a

programme also includes a new Peter Stein production of Chekhov's *The Cherry Orchard*. For big names, Salzburg still wears the crown.

But for artistic risk-taking, we must look elsewhere - to Lucerne, where Matthis Bamert has programmed a week of gypsy music, a Berthold Goldschmidt premiere and a Béla celebration. After last summer's *Forms of Interpretation*, Bamert has come up with another inspired theme: "Misjudgements in music", embracing works which were misunderstood, banned or wrapped in scandal when new.

Putting last year's setbacks well behind them, Aix and Schleswig-Holstein are back with a vengeance. Rossini's *Le comte Ory* heads the bill at Aix, but the festival's most enticing prospect is a series of choral concerts conducted by William Christie.

The Schleswig-Holstein festival has survived the noisy departure last November of Justus Franz, its founder and guiding spirit. The programme is as full and varied as ever, and has a strong youth element - the trademark of a lively festival.

Anyone still undecided about their festival destination would do well to try Bergen or Savonlinna. Both have an atmospheric open-air stage, high artistic standards and beautiful hinterland.

AIX-EN-PROVENCE
July 11 - 30
Service Location, Palais de l'Amic Archevêché, 13100 Aix-en-Provence, France. Tel 4217 3434 Fax 4217 3421.

After last summer's paltry programme, Aix is back to three operas - by Rossini and Mozart, the composers it knows best. Evelino Pido conducts a new production of *Le comte Ory*. Karita Mattila and Lillian Watson head the cast in *Cosi fan tutte* and *Die Zauberflöte* returns in last year's well-received production by William Christie and Robert Carsen. Christie also directs Les Arts Florissants in major choral works by Handel, Charpentier and Beethoven, and there are recitals by Samuel Ramey and Dawn Upshaw. Aix's biggest attraction remains the food and *provençal* air.

ALDEburgh
June 9 - 25
Aldeburgh Festival Box Office, High Street, Aldeburgh, Suffolk IP15 5AX; 01728 553543.

Concerts, films, talks and a new opera by Nicola LeFanu, *The Wildman*. Some concerts take place in neighbouring villages. In the Aldeburgh tradition, much Purcell and Britten; the composers Nicholas Maw, Magnus Lindberg and Thomas Adès are specially featured too. Picturesque coast, pleasant hotels.

ASPEN
June 22 - August 20
Aspen Music Festival Ticket Sales, 2 Music School Road, Aspen, CO 81611, USA. Tel 303-923 9012 Fax 303-925 3802.

Aspen is a resort in the Colorado Rockies, about 200 miles west of Denver. For more than 40 years the Aspen Music Festival, and its related music school, has attracted distinguished musicians for a period of intense summer activity. There are daily concerts, open rehearsals, masterclasses and jazz performances - many of them free. This year's programme focuses on Czech composers who were interned at Terezin concentration camp. Visiting conductors include Kent Nagano, James Conlon and Paul Daniel. There is a staging of *Madame Butterfly* and a concert performance of *Fidelio*.

BAD KISSINGEN
June 15 - July 16
Kissinger Sommer, Postfach 2260, D-97672 Bad Kissingen, Germany. Tel 971-807110 Fax 971-807191.

Situated in north Bavaria, Bad Kissingen is an ideal holiday base for anyone wanting to explore an area rich in history, architecture and pictureque countryside. The town itself is a former royal spa. The 19th-century Regentenbau incorporates four elegant concert halls, and there is a fine-de-siècle theatre. The programme is evenly divided between orchestral concerts and recitals by artists of the calibre of Olaf Bar and András Schiff.

BAYREUTH
July 25 - August 28
Kartenbüro der Bayreuther Festspiele, Postfach 106202, D-95402 Bayreuth, Germany. Tel 921-20231.

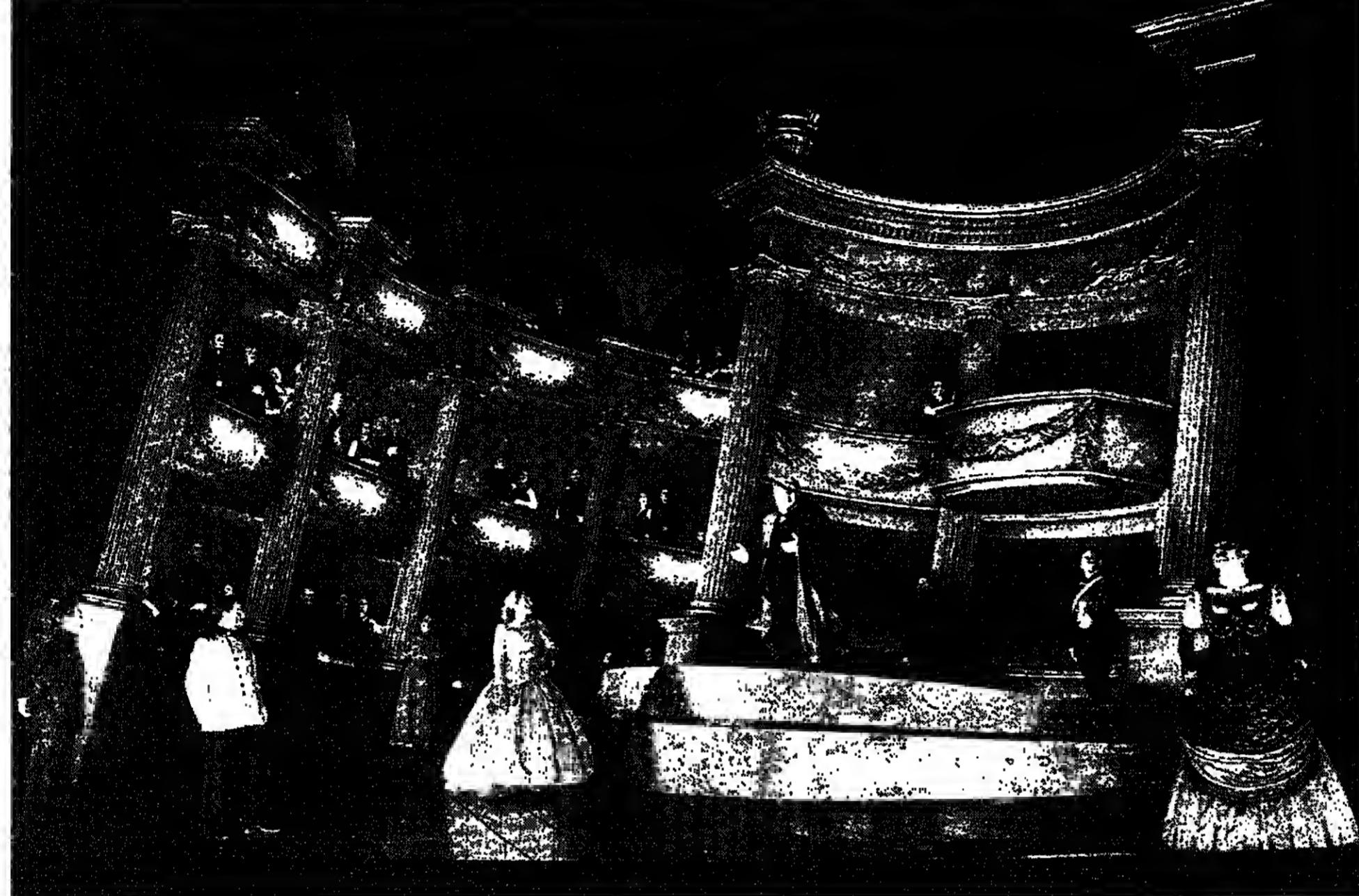
Bayreuth has a predictable air this summer, with no new productions. Plácido Domingo returns to sing the title role in *Parsifal*. Donald Runnicles conducts *Tannhäuser* and John Tomlinson is Wotan in *The Ring*. But the one to catch is Heiner Müller's innovative 1988 staging of *Tristan und Isolde*, sung by Siegfried Jerusalem and Waltraud Meier. If you didn't order tickets last October, forget this summer's festival and start thinking about 1996.

BBC PROMS
July 21 - September 16
Promenade Concerts, Ticket Shop, Royal Albert Hall, London SW7 2AP. 0171-589 8812.

Twenty concerts in this centenary year, including 10 late-night ones. Operas, some of them semi-staged, by Purcell, Hindemith, Ravel, Bartók and Janáček (*The Makropoulos Case* from Glyndebourne); all of Mahler's symphonies; 14 BBC commissions and 14 other premières - new music by Béla, Steve Reich, Elliott

Cartier, Maxwell Davies, Birtwistle, Knussen, etc. The Prom atmosphere in the Royal Albert Hall is unique.

BREGENZ
July 20 - August 23
Kartenbüro der Bregenzer Festspiele, Postfach 311, A-6901 Bregenz, Austria. Tel 5574-492 0223 Fax 5574-492 0228.



Emmons at Glyndebourne

Bregenz draws huge crowds for its outdoor opera performances at the Austrian end of Lake Constance, and has a growing reputation for artistic excellence. After their success with *Nabucco* in the past two years, producer David Pountney and designer Stefano Lazaridis return for *Fidelio*, which will have 23 performances on the floating stage. This is complemented in the indoor theatre by Rimsky-Korsakov's *The Legend of the Invisible City of Kitezh*, staged by Harry Kupfer with a Russian *Ruslan und Ludmila*.

Scottish Opera is mounting Dvořák's unjustly neglected comic opera *The Jacobin*, and for addicts of the contemporary there is *I was looking at the ceiling and then I saw the sky*, the European première of the latest collaboration between American composer John Adams and director Peter Sellars, best known for their Nixon in China.

In the theatre, the Berliner Ensemble are bringing over *The Merchant of Venice* directed by Peter Zadek, while there is a welcome mini season of the work of Sacha Guitry. Two of his boulevard comedies will be performed, in German, by Schaubühne am Lehniner Platz of Berlin. There is a French company at the festival, the popular Deschamps et Deschamps, which is putting on *C'est magnifique*, inspired by the slapsick of Jacques Tati.

The Glasgow Citizens is mounting Schiller's classic *Don Carlos* while the TAG Theatre Company of Glasgow has adapted for the stage Alasdair Gray's satiric novel *Lanark*. The Abbey Theatre of Dublin is bringing over *Observe the sons of Ulster marching towards the Somme*. Frank McGuinness' moving tribute to the Ulstermen who volunteered in the first world war.

EDINBURGH
August 13 - September 2
Edinburgh International Festival, Box Office, 21 Market Street, Edinburgh, EH1 1BW. Tel 0131 223 5756 Fax 0131 226 7669.

Concerts (including all the Sibelius symphonies), operas (including the première of *Pont-à-Mousson* by Thomas Adès) exhibitions. The new artistic director, the composer Michael Berkeley, has ensured that almost every concert contains at least one contemporary work, the programmes are uncommonly imaginative and promising. It looks like a renaissance for this long-established festival.

CHESTER
July 14 - 29
Chester Summer Music Festival, Festival Office, 8 Abbey

Square, Chester, CH1 2HU. Tel 01244 341200/320700.

An expanding programme of music this year takes in Purcell with the King's Consort and Handel's *Saul*, conducted by Richard Hickox. Visiting performers include Nikolai Demidenko and Lesley Garrett.

CITY OF LONDON
June 20 - July 7
Barbican Centre, Silk Street, London EC2Y 5DS. Tel 0171-638 8891.

Although it may be difficult to spot a music festival in the midst of so much cultural activity, the City of London festival has capitalised on its position. Many of the events take place in the city's historic buildings, from churches and livery halls, to Guildhall and St Paul's Cathedral. In this year's programme there is the inevitable focus on Purcell, but also Britten (the 50th anniversary of *Peter Grimes*) and Handel, a wide variety of attractive recitals, and various talks and walks. Lunchtime events cater for the city worker with an hour to spare for a cultural snack.

BUXTON
July 12 - 30
Tel 01298-70395.

Despite near-fatal financial problems over the past few years Buxton's summer festival is still going and this year features a new production of Monteverdi's *The Return of Ulysses*. The programme also includes Britten's *The Turn of the Screw*, the Hallé Orchestra and the Rahn Scholars, while the beauty of the surrounding Peak District may be counted a still greater lure.

CHILTERNHAM
July 1 - 16
Festival Booking Office, Town Hall, Imperial Square, Cheltenham GL50 1QA. Tel 01242-227978.

Concerts (including all the Sibelius symphonies), operas (including the première of *Pont-à-Mousson* by Thomas Adès) exhibitions. The new artistic director, the composer Michael Berkeley, has ensured that almost every concert contains at least one contemporary work, the programmes are uncommonly imaginative and promising. It looks like a renaissance for this long-established festival.

EDINBURGH
July 13 - September 2
Edinburgh International Festival, Box Office, 21 Market Street, Edinburgh, EH1 1BW. Tel 0131 223 5756 Fax 0131 226 7669.

The Edinburgh Festival is enjoying a revival under its new director Brian McMaster and the 1995 programme is

at least one contemporary work, the programmes are uncommonly imaginative and promising. It looks like a renaissance for this long-established festival.

EDINBURGH
July 14 - 29
Chester Summer Music Festival, Festival Office, 8 Abbey

Square, Chester, CH1 2HU. Tel 01244 341200/320700.

Music is always a major feature of Edinburgh and among the visiting orchestras are the Gustav Mahler Jugendorchester, the Philharmonia, the NDR Symphony from Hamburg, and the St Petersburg Philharmonic.

The feast of Dvořák includes his Requiem and Stabat Mater as well as his three

major concertos played in turn by András Schiff, piano, Yuuko Shiokawa, violin, and Boris Pergamenschikow, cello. There is the usual packed programme of chamber music.

The most exciting is the visit of the Kirov Opera which is bringing a vast company and two very Russian operas by Rimsky-Korsakov, *The Legend of the Invisible City of Kitezh*, which caused a storm when performed in concert in London last year, and the fairy tale, *Sodko*. Both will be shown to good effect on the vast stage of the Festival Theatre which opened last year. The Kirov will also present a concert performance of Glazunov's *Ruslan und Ludmila*.

Scottish Opera is mounting Dvořák's unjustly neglected comic opera *The Jacobin*, and for addicts of the contemporary there is *I was looking at the ceiling and then I saw the sky*, the European première of the latest collaboration between American composer John Adams and director Peter Sellars, best known for their Nixon in China.

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The Glasgow Citizens is mounting Schiller's classic *Don Carlos* while the TAG Theatre Company of Glasgow has adapted for the stage Alasdair Gray's satiric novel *Lanark*.

There is also a new staging of Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas* and a revival of Martin y Soler's *Una cosa rara*.

EDINBURGH
July 13 - September 2
Edinburgh International Festival, Box Office, 21 Market Street, Edinburgh, EH1 1BW. Tel 0131 223 5756 Fax 0131 226 7669.

The Edinburgh Festival is enjoying a revival under its new director Brian McMaster and the 1995 programme is

at least one contemporary work, the programmes are uncommonly imaginative and promising. It looks like a renaissance for this long-established festival.

EDINBURGH
July 14 - 29
Chester Summer Music Festival, Festival Office, 8 Abbey

Square, Chester, CH1 2HU. Tel 01244 341200/320700.

Music is always a major feature of Edinburgh and among the visiting orchestras are the Gustav Mahler Jugendorchester, the Philharmonia, the NDR Symphony from Hamburg, and the St Petersburg Philharmonic.

The feast of Dvořák includes his Requiem and Stabat Mater as well as his three

major concertos played in turn by András Schiff, piano, Yuuko Shiokawa, violin, and Boris Pergamenschikow, cello. There is the usual packed programme of chamber music.

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SUMMER FESTIVALS

Jazz / Garry Booth

Musicians' migration patterns

Every year at about this time the migration of jazz musicians across the Atlantic to Europe begins. And every season sees the addition of a new stopping point for the big names – this year, for example, trumpeter Wynton Marsalis can be caught at all points between Istanbul in Turkey (July 6) and Port in Finland (July 21).

The Festival Django Reinhardt (June 23-25 / Tel: 41 54 68 54 66) held in the village of Samois, near Fontainebleau, gets by without the gitariste, however. Essentially a gathering of gypsy guitarists, this year's swinging sessions are supplemented by Cuban percussionist Ray Barretto, US pianist Cedar Walton and British singer Claire Martin.

Afficionados of the "hot" tradition should look to Saturday's pairing of guitarists Bireli Lagrene and Christian Escoubet.

The Glasgow International Jazz Festival (June 30-July 9 / Tel: 0141 305 7500) manages to combine sympathetic venues with top names – 87-year-old Stephane Grappelli in front of a 20-piece string orchestra, for example.

The Old Town Fruitmarket in the old town will be a good spot to catch Arthur Sandoval and the Latin Train. In an unmissable

tribute to Charlie Parker, altoists Peter King and Phil Woods are teamed up, under the scrutiny of Chan Parker, Bird's widow, as guest of honour. All the musicians stay at the Marriott Hotel and the after-hours bar there is the place to hang out.

The programming of Switzerland's Montreux Jazz Festival (July 7-22 / Tel: 41 21 51 34 567) stretches definitions – not to mention credibility – at times. In among the black-tie brigade this year are Screaming Headless Torsos at the Stravinsky Hall and rapper Ice-T at the Miles Davis Hall.

My tip is for Tuesday night when Jimmy Smith and Band appear on the same stage as Joe Henderson's Brazil project and John McLaughlin's Free Spirits. Montreux's informal jamming sessions happen in the bar at the lakeside Hyatt Hotel.

Less glamorous but equally eclectic in its programming, the Hague's North Sea Jazz Festival (July 14-16 / Tel: 31 1899 27940) claims to be the biggest "indoor" jazz fest, accommodating 60,000 fans in 14 auditoria. Oscar Peterson, George Shearing and Wynton Marsalis top the bill – but look out for gems such as Charlie Haden's Quartet West, Wayne Shorter, Lester Bowie's Brazzy Voices and a Paul Motian



Street music: jazz at the Brecon Festival

group which features Lee Konitz playing Broadway hits.

The incongruous sight and sound of a New Orleans brass band steaming through the Welsh market town of Brecon is one to savour. At Brecon Jazz (August 11-13 / Tel: 01874 625557), a stroller pass lets you cruise the numerous open-air stages and hotel bars while tickets for the main concerts

can be bought individually. It is always a good bet for its choice of big bands, and this year's include the Toshiko Akiyoshi Jazz Orchestra, the rollicking Dirty Dozen Brass Band and the Original Prague Syncopated Orchestra. An Abdullah Ibrahim trio and a John Scofield quartet are the best of the small groups.

Like Brecon, the Guinness

Cork Jazz Festival (October 27-30 / Tel: 353 21 273 231) in Ireland has a reputation for mixing conviviality (ie, lashings of ale) with top-drawer blue notes. This jazz *fleabag*, with its 50 venues from open house to pub, acts as a collecting point for US artists about to make the journey back home. For that reason, the programme has yet to be finalised.

London has not appeared in

this list because, although it has two important festivals, one is simply a series of high-profile concerts at the Royal Festival Hall and the other happens long after the festival.

The JVC Capital 95.8FM London Jazz Parade (July 10-16 / Tel: 0171 420 0958) brings the disparate crowning of Van Mor-

rison, George Benson and Tony Bennett to the South Bank.

The London International Jazz Festival (November 10-19 / Tel: to be announced), which used to be in April, retains its off-the-wall flavour. This year's programme promises a night of music, theatre, pyrotechnics and haute cuisine in London's Docklands, courtesy of Lyon's Art performance art ensemble.

European festivals offer varied fare – most to be sampled with care unless you are a dedicated follower of modern dance in its more venturesome or aggravating forms. Between June 22 and July 8, Montpellier will show a varied bill of creators. Merce Cunningham will bring two programmes; other visitors include Cristina Hoyos, Trisha Brown, plus some less immediately approachable performers.

From July 1 to 15, there is a dance festival at Chateauneuf, with Béjart's Lausanne troupe on view, and among others, Doug Elkins, a bright New York spark with one piece irresistibly named *Scout, Queen of the Marys*.

In Finland, the Kino Festival, between June 28 and July 4, offers dance ranging from baroque to early Finnish modern and modern Spanish. The *clou* of the festival is the revival of Fokine's long-lost and fascinating *L'Épreuve d'amour*. (The original and ravishing Derain designs were off-loaded from a ship into Cannes harbour in 1939, where they remain to this day.) The ballet is staged by the Finnish National Ballet who had a version many years ago, and now revive it, with Derain's decoration. Worthwhile.

And, saving the best to last, New York City Ballet will feature in the Paris International Dance Festival, appearing at the Théâtre du Châtelet between September 28 and October 8.

The first season under new management brings the customary selection of operatic rarities. There will be productions of Pacini's *Saffo*, Rimsky-Korsakoff's *Moy Night* and Mascagni's *Iris*, each of which can be savoured at leisure together with the local fish specialities in this quiet sea-side town.

VERBIER
July 14 - 30
Verbiere Festival and Academy, Office du Tourisme, CH-1936 Verbiere, Switzerland. Tel 4126-316222 Fax 4126-313272.

The festival in this Alpine resort was founded last year by Martin Engstrom, who by stumping up 60 per cent of his SFr2m (£1.1m) budget. The idea is to bring together talented young artists at an advanced stage of their training, and

allow them to mix with a select group of world-renowned musicians – who give master-classes, recitals and orchestral concerts. This year's line-up includes Isaac Stern, Nikolai Demidenko, Frans Helmerson and Kurt Sanderling.

WEXFORD
October 19 - November 5
Theatre Royal, High Street, Wexford, Ireland. Tel 053-532214.

The pleasures of the International Wadstena Academy include performances by the cream of young Swedish singers and the chance to hear repertory you would never encounter in a normal repertory theatre. Productions are staged in the historic buildings of this charming medieval town 250km south-west of Stockholm. The 1995 programme includes Donizetti's *II fortunato Inganno*.

YVERDIER
July 14 - 30
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YORK
July 7 - 16
York Early Music Festival, PO Box 226, York, YO3 6ZU. Tel 01904-658333.

There can only have been one choice of theme for this year's early music festival in York: the music of Purcell on the commemoration of the tercentenary of his death. Performers include the Consort of Musicks with Anthony Rooley and the City Waites.

Clement Crisp

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Continued from previous page

itals by Maria Joao Pires, Evgeny Kissin, and Alfred Brendel, and orchestral concerts conducted by Haitink.

MONTEREUX
August 22 - September 26
Festival de Musique Montrœux, Rue du Théâtre 5, Case postale 162, CH-1820 Montreux 2, Switzerland. Tel: 21 983 5450 Fax 21 963 2506.

Montreux offers a sultry lakeside setting, a cavernous modern barn of a concert hall and a haphazard collection of touring orchestras. The festival opens its 50th anniversary season with Britten's *War Requiem*, followed by concerts conducted by Jansons, Chailly, Sawallisch, Maazel, Norrington, Dutoit and Giulini. It ends with a well-planned weekend of chamber music marking the centenary of Hindemith, who lived near Montreux, in his later years.

MUNICH
July 1 - 31
Festspielhaus der Bayerischen Staatsoper, Postfach 101404, D-8008 Munich, Germany. Tel 089 525232.

Peter Jonas' second Munich Opera Festival opens with *Paradise*, in a new staging by radical east German director Peter Konwitschny. Apart from Alberto Reinhardt's *Kafka* opera *Das Schloss* (in a production imported from Berlin), the remaining programme consists of repeat performances of the

past season's repertory – with a 60 per cent mark-up on normal seat prices.

PESARO
August 12 - 25
Biblioteca del Festival, Via Rossini 37, 61100 Pesaro, Italy. Tel 052 39161 Fax 721-30379.

Pesaro means Mediterranean sun, Adriatic sand and Rossini vitality. Rossini was born here, and the festival is his greatest champion. This year's programme may not be prime vintage, but there is still plenty of interest. Pier Luigi Pizzi will stage *Guillaume Tell* with Michele Pertusi in the title role, and Roger Norrington will conduct *Zemir* with a cast headed by Mariella Devia, Rockwell Blake and Bruce Ford.

RAVENNA
June 15 - July 25
Ravenna Festival, Via Dante Alighieri 1, 48100 Ravenna, Italy. Tel 544-32577 Fax 544-36303.

Ravenna is Riccardo Mutti's home town. He conducts the Orchestra of La Scala in a new work by Richard Wernick and a production of Bellini's *Norma* starring Jane Eaglen. The programme is otherwise headed "Between East and West" – a conveniently nebulous theme embracing Cristina Hoyos' flamenco company, Giovanni Testori's adaptation of Sophocles' *Oedipus*, a new Scheherazade choreography by Micha van Hoecke and concerts of traditional Greek Orthodox and Byzantine music.

SALZBURG
July 21 - August 31
Kartenhöfe der Salzburger Festspiele, Postfach 140, A-5010 Salzburg, Austria. Tel 662-844501 Fax 662-846682.

The 1995 programme has a populist tone, suggesting a need for financial retrenchment. The new productions are *Le nozze di Figaro* (Harcourt-Bondy, with Terfel and Hvorostovsky heading the cast), *La traviata* (Muti-Pasquali), *Der Rosenkavalier* (Mazel-Wernick, with Cheryl Studer as the Marschallin), *Lulu* (Gielen-Mussbach, with Christine Schäfer in the title role) and a Schoenberg/Bartók double bill (Dohany-Wilson, with Jessie Norman). Maurizio Pollini has his own concert series, ranging from Gesualdo and Beethoven to Nono and Berg. There are the usual star-studded recitals and orchestral concerts, and the drama programme includes Peter Stein productions of *The Cherry Orchard* and *Antony and Cleopatra*.

SANTA FE
June 30 - August 26
Santa Fe Opera, PO Box 2408, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504, USA. Tel 505-986 5900 Fax 505-989 7012.

The 1995 programme is well-balanced but does not promise the best vintage. *Modern Painters*, David Lang's new opera about Victorian art critic John Ruskin, will be premièred on July 29. There are new productions of *Salomé* starring Inga

headed by Murray Perahia, Anne-Sophie Mutter, Teresa Berganza, Shura Cherkassky and Evgeny Kissin. Herbert Blomstedt conducts the festival's opening concerts and Günter Wand brings it to a close.

SPOLETO
July 24 - July 16
Associazione Festival dei Due Mondi, Teatro Nuovo, Spoleto, Italy. Tel 052-40265 Fax 743-221584.

Spoletos, an Umbrian hilltown within easy reach of Rome, offers a hot, hectic round-the-clock collage of events, spearheaded by two opera productions – *Carmen* by Spanish director Carlos Saura and *Shostakovich's The Nose* directed by Roman Terlecky. The programme also features the Alvin Ailey American Dance Company and Robert Lepage's *Enfureitung*. The other two festival productions are *Der fliegende Holländer* and *Maschek*, complemented by a visit from the Kirov Opera with Toscani and *Lady Macbeth of Mzensk*.

SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN
June 25 - August 20
Styriarte-Kartenbüro, Palais Alvensleben, Sackstrasse 17, A-8010 Graz, Austria. Tel 316-8123 Graz, 4122 Fax 316-8736.

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STYRIARTE
June 23 - July 15
Styriarte-Kartenbüro, Palais Alvensleben, Sackstrasse 17, A-8010 Graz, Austria. Tel 316-8123 Graz, 4122 Fax 316-8736.

The 1995 festival promises world premieres by Kancheli, Glass and Takemitsu, and Pierre Boulez celebrates his 70th birthday on July 17 conducting a concert in Lübeck. The recital programme is

headed by Murray Perahia, Anne-Sophie Mutter, Teresa Berganza, Shura Cherkassky and Evgeny Kissin. Herbert Blomstedt conducts the festival's opening concerts and Günter Wand brings it to a close.

TANGLEWOOD
July 7 - August 28
Until mid-June: Tanglewood Ticket Office, Symphony Hall, Boston MA 02115, USA. Tel 617-266 1492. From mid-June: Tanglewood Ticket Office, Tanglewood, Lenox MA 01240, USA. Tel 617-931 2000.

The Boston Symphony Orchestra's summer home provides a relaxed setting for music in the heart of the Massachusetts countryside. This year's opening concert pays tribute to Carl Orff with *Carmina Burana*. Seiji Ozawa also heads a blockbuster weekend of events on August 5 and 6, featuring Berlioz's *Requiem* and Mahler's *Second Symphony*. Guest conductors include André Previn and Jeffrey Tate, and there will be a week of new music from August 9 to 15.

TORROELLA DE MONTGRÍ
July 15 - August 26
Festival Internacional de Música, Apartat 70, C/Codina 28 1r, 17257 Torroella de Montgrí, Spain. Tel 72-760600 Fax 72-760648.

Torreella de Montgrí is a small Catalan town on the Costa Brava, but it is not primarily a tourist resort. The town-centre is architecturally typical of the Empordà, the natural surroundings are lovely, and numerous cultural activities take place throughout the year. The summer music festival mixes Spanish artists with international

ART GALLERIES

SPRING JUNE EXHIBITIONS

1. British Paintings, 7

ARTS

Visual treat awaits

This year's Summer Exhibition is smaller, says William Packer

The point of the Summer Show at the Royal Academy is that it is always different, and always the same old lucky dip. This year, with 1,168 assorted paintings and sculptures, prints, drawings and architectural models selected from a total submission of more than 11,000, it is smaller than in recent years, but still daunting.

For this is no curated show: there is no theme, no rationale, nor could there ever be beyond the particular and arguable excellence of the chosen work. As always, it is for the curious visitor to pick his way for himself through this throng and jostle of disparate pleasures.

And, of course, it is different. A number of conscious changes have been made this year to the old and familiar arrangements, which may disconcert at first but, on reflection, prove reasonable. *Afribale dictu*, the cars have been cleared from the centre of the courtyard and their place given to sculpture. It is a happy precedent, giving London a fresh and welcome open space that may well outlast this present show.

Indoors, the usual circuit of the galleries has been reversed, with entrance now by way of the octagonal Central Hall, dominated this year by Paozzi's huge plaster monument to Sir Isaac Newton, eventually to be cast in bronze for the British Library. The visitor is led off to the right through the Lecture Hall, still the principal repository of the sculpture, and on into what was previously the back end of the show.

This reversal achieves a later rather than an earlier climax, never a bad thing, with the show building up through the more miscellaneous rooms to the more ambitious and selective hang of the Banqueting Hall (the old Gallery III), and the former Gallery I, where senior academicians and chief supporters are always shown.

This last is now the final room, and its final wall is given over, sadly but rightly so, to the memorial display of the work of Sir Roger de Grey, who gave up his distinguished presidency of the Academy last



Norman Blamey's 'The Settle' at the Royal Academy

Karen Holly's drawing of Florence, nude by a mirror by Stan Smith. And Geraldine Kight's sculptures of a cow and a sheep remind us how much good animal sculpture there now is as the acceptable figurative alternative - Nicola Hicks, Jana Sweeney,

Sophie Ryder, Mark Coreth, Ralph Brown and Barry Flanagan are others.

The verdict on this year's Academy? As variable in quality as always, but full of good things if approached with open eyes and an open mind. There is a professionalism still active

in this country across the range of the visual arts that is hardly to be found elsewhere.

The 227th Summer Exhibition: Royal Academy of Arts, Burlington House, Piccadilly W1, until August 13; in association with Guinness plc.

Theatrical conceits

Simon Reade goes to Birmingham for Oscar Wilde

A century after the triumph of Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest*, what have we learnt? The durability of epigrams, to be sure. Terry Hands' arch revival at the Birmingham Rep (due into the Old Vic in July) also shows that we have not learnt very much about posturing pretence.

Bands does not decode the homosexual subtext like Nicholas Wright's production for the English Touring Company, which casts transsexual Bette Bourne as Lady Bracknell.

Instead he exaggerates Wilde's theatrical conceits, layering a knowing comic melodrama on to the play, just as Wilde mischievously side-swept at the theatre of his day (from Henry Irving's excess to Pinter's po-faced realism).

This contextualising and

simultaneous deconstructing may sometimes seem as obvious and forced as the gush of uniform light on set lighting designer, T. Hands. However, it is largely a successful projection of the Wildean aesthetic of truth through artifice.

Wilde dashed off his "trivial play for serious people" in a few weeks at the start of a stunning year which began with the West End hits of *An Ideal Husband* and *Earnest*, and ended in tragedy, bankruptcy, disgrace and Reading Gaol. In his biography, Richard Ellmann describes Wilde as "refined, majestic, waiting to fall". The very society he had delighted when exposing its pompous humbug, turned on him and spurned him.

Through foolish lies, Wilde tells truths. Through language: "Never speak directly

of Society. Algernon. Only people who can't get into it do that." By parodying genres: the sibling losses in Greek drama; Shakespeare's reconciliation scenes; preposterous Restoration niceties. With theatre: Cecily uses a real watering can to really water a profusion of paper roses. This is Wilde sending up contemporary camp-and-sancer drama. It remains as bold a lie as a green carnation.

Mark Balfe's clever design sets Act I in Bohemian Mayfair; the Chinese-screened, Turkish-carpeted pied-à-terre of a travelling bachelor, littered with empty gift frames awaiting their pictures of Dorian Gray. Through the unglazed windows we see nothing but vacuous blue sky scudded with clouds. It is as intangible as Bumby, as delicate as a cucumber sandwich, as fake as the green baize

sward of Acts II and III Hertfordshire - a synthetic idyll where jolly birds twitter. The truth is rarely pure and never as simple as the impression of these hollow facades.

A chipper cast performs with relish. Roger Allam's Jack Worthing has perhaps too much childlike petulance, which occasionally dulls the wit of his sparring partner: a prancing, childish Algernon from Philip Franks. There is a super study of insincerity from Abigail Cruttenden's Gwendolen, and Patrick Godfrey, as a slow-thinking, innocently smutty Reverend Chasuble, and Martin Wimbush, donning as the silently subversive butlers Lane and Merriman, turn in fond cameos. Barbara Leigh-Hunt's Lady Bracknell is world-weary, understandably disappointed in the petty rebellions of the young, yet shrewd enough to

play *reductio ad absurdum* for all it is worth. She gives a show-stopping silent scream when Jack confesses to being born in "a handbag". She vocally shudders her voice on the word "exciting". She gives ironic glances. She is meticulous, subtle, commanding. Leigh-Hunt teaches us Wilde's profound integrity lies beneath the surface performance.

The programme succinctly

summed up the litigions turmoil into which sport is plunging, footballers suing others for injuries (and being left with a half-million pound legal bill), sponsor-hungry athletes taking action against drug findings, crippled boxers pursuing the Board of Control, even cricketers suing for non-selection.

Next month a Belgian footballer may change the law by affirming the right to leave a team and join another on his terms; after all, should your old boss dictate your next job? Would the editor of the FT expect a cut when his radio critic is lured away by Rabbit Breeder's Gazette or Ladies' Mud Wrestling Illustrated?

Even that pillar of non-sneaking solidarity, rugby union, wants legal clarification, as we heard from two players almost blinded when

a shoe

and some are so aggressive

that the authorities unwisely

paraphrase the Duke of Wellington: never mind the enemy, by God they frighten

the whole thing referred to as a "product" in bland marketing tones was chilling "to we Len Deighton fans" as the pleasant, if ungrammatical, presenter put it.

Presumably early morning dial-twiddlers and devotees of farming programmes are not among the indignant letter-writing classes. This may be why there has been no outrage over a recent programme dedicated to the fragrant tuber which stated that the then government had the means to relieve the Irish potato famine but let "market forces" run their course.

Another dawn nugget - from the World Service's Europe Today - had a European Commission fisheries representative denying that the Spanish were over-fishing.

They merely have "the best fleet in Europe" and they "fish a lot" and "there are not enough fish for too many fishermen". So there. Wait till they start ruling on sport.

more intricate, more lucid, more poignant, and more resonant.

In the final scene, Stoppard brings characters of 1812 and the present day onstage at the same time, unaware of each other. Valentine and Hannah, Thomasina and Septimus are all talking of knowledge - but Thomasina (on what, we realise, will be the last evening of her life) is also trying to learn the waltz.

Suddenly Septimus puts his finger on the issue of complete knowledge at the expense of innocence: "When we have found all the meanings, and lost the mysteries, we will be alone, on an empty shore." Beautiful, but Thomasina caps him, very simply: "Then we will dance."

Dancing is the ideal metaphor for living in the present, and it is Thomasina's touching balance of sense and sensibility that leads her to understand this. And dance they do. While *Eden/Arcadia* lasts, enjoy it.

A woman's world

Television/Christopher Dunkley

Television drama is becoming obsessed with the quality of being female. Some say this no more than the beginnings of a counterbalance to centuries of obsession with masculinity in drama. But that is not quite true.

Even if past titles - from *Two Gentlemen Of Verona* to *Boys From The Blackstuff* - indicate a masculine bias, the works were rarely concerned with the quality of being male. They were more interested in the quality of sovereignty, in politics and warfare, or love, hatred and jealousy.

Manliness and the male virtues may sometimes have come into it, but hardly more often than their female equivalents. In television drama today the experience of being female is showing signs of overwhelming all other considerations. BBC1's new Sunday evening series, *The Vet*, is not so much about the life of a vet (admittedly a subject that some may feel has been done to death) but about the life of a female vet.

The Governor, which runs on ITV just after *The Vet*, is not really about being a prison governor but about being a woman prison governor - in a men's prison, of course - just as *Prime Suspect* is about being a high-ranking woman detective. Given that we are now into the western world's fourth decade of fixation on the role of women on television, it is not surprising and may be inevitable.

But the degree of success achieved in these dramas varies enormously. Before we actually saw it, *The Politician's Wife* on Channel 4 sounded like an interesting idea. Why, it was asked, did the Tory wife in twin-set and pearls, always stand so loyally beside the pol-

ician husband after it was revealed that he had been bonking his researcher/secretary/agent?

For a while, in Episode 1, it seemed writer Paula Milne might have imagined herself into the role and come up with some suggestions. Her Tory wife did pose loyally beside her husband when his affair was discovered. But then, instead of analysing why, the rest of the series turned into an illustration of two familiar notions: that hell hath no fury like a woman scorned, and the female of the species is more deadly than the male. Not only

sub-machine guns in his vestry. Maura is a weeping mouse of a girl one day and then, having been radicalised by a badly botched abortion, a criminal haridan the next. She simply wanders along to her brothers' knocking shop in Soho, says she wants a job, and within hours is burning out all the ice cream vans belonging to their Italian rivals.

The message seems to be that anything mere men can do, women can do even more nastily once they put their minds to it. The most enjoyable of the current catalogue of female dramas is ITV's Monday night offering, *Bramwell*. Some have condemned this story of a young woman practising medicine in London in the 1890s for projecting late 20th-century feminist attitudes on to Victorian society.

Since hindsight clever dickery of that sort does occur only too frequently on television (for instance, in the American series about a female doctor in the wild west in the 1890s, *Dr Quinn, Medicine Woman*, which is stuffed with ludicrous anachronisms) it seems odd to level the complaint at *Bramwell*, which is almost entirely innocent of such offences.

Eleanor does face outspoken prejudice, unconcealed discrimination, and downright rudeness and ridicule in her efforts to become a surgeon, but the evidence suggests this is an accurate enough picture.

Like all successful drama, *Bramwell* presents a person who is realistically complicated. True, she does fulfil many of the requirements of a feminist stereotype, but, as written by Lucy Cannon and acted by Jemma Redgrave, she is also impulsive, devious and sometimes rude, not a sainly embodiment of all the virtues and therefore boring.

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INTERNATIONAL ARTS GUIDE

What's on in the principal cities

■ AMSTERDAM

CONCERTS

Hot Concertgebouw Tel: (020) 571 8345

• Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra: with the Netherlands Radio Choir, Maris Jansons conducts Schoenberg and Shostakovich; 8.15pm; Jun 9

GALLERIES

Gemeentemuseum Amsterdam Tel: (020) 572 0202

• Mahler in Amsterdam: exhibition on the life and works of Mahler with an assortment of manuscripts, letters, scores and films; to Jun 11

Nieuwe Kerk Tel: (020) 676 6096

• World Press Photo Exhibition: exhibition of 200 photographs chosen from approximately 30,000; to Jun 5

Rijksmuseum Tel: (020) 673 21 21

• The Age of Elegance exhibition reflecting 18th century Dutch art with 40 paintings by artists such as

Trost, Tischbein and Ouwater; to Sep 24

Tropenmuseum Tel: (020) 568 8200

• Nomads in Central Asia: more than 1000 objects on loan from the Russian Ethnographic Museum in St. Petersburg. A multitude of exhibits ranging from a traditional herdsman's tent to embroidered clothing; to Jul 20

Van Gogh Museum Tel: (020) 570 5200

• In Perfect Harmony, Picture and Frame 1850-1920: exhibition of 55 paintings in their original frames brought together by art historian Eva Menger. Artists include Van Gogh and Klimt; to Jun 25

OPERA/BALLET

Hot Muziektheater Tel: (020) 551 89

• Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg: by Wagner, Hartmut Haenchen conducts the Netherlands Philharmonic Orchestra and soloists Jan Hendrik Rootering and Siegfried Vogel; 5.30pm; Jun 4 (1.30pm), 7, 10

Royal Theatre Carré Tel: (020) 320 2500

• Esmeralda: by Lovendau, World

premieres based on a true story during the German occupation; Friedemann Layer conducts the Netherlands Radio Philharmonic Orchestra and soloists Jeanne Pioland and Marie Angel; 8.15pm; Jun 4, 6, 8

■ BALTIMORE

GALLERIES

Baltimore Museum Tel: (410) 396 6310

• Manassas, Picasso and Friends: first exhibition from the Corine Collection. More than 150 works from a collection of over 3000 objects; from Jun 7 to Aug 27

• The Garden of Earthly Delights: photographs by Edward Weston and Robert Mapplethorpe; to Jul 30

■ BARCELONA

GALLERIES

Fundació "la Caixa" Tel: (93) 404 80 73

• Postwar Europe, 1945-1965, Art After the Flood: exhibition which aims to present an extensive overview of European art in the 20 years after World War II. There are 527 works by 270 artists in four sections:

architecture and design; photography, painting and sculpture; to Jul 30

Museu Picasso Tel: (93) 319 69 02

• Tatlin: exhibition of works by the Russian painter, architect, designer and scenographer who was associated with the Constructivist and Russian Avantgarde movements; to Jun 25

■ BERLIN

CONCERTS

Konzert Haus Tel: (020) 309 21 02

• Berlin Symphony Orchestra: with trumpet player Reinhold Friedrich, Michael Schonwandt conducts Copland, Zimmerman and Haydn; 8pm; Jun 4

• Moscow Chamber Orchestra: with violinist Boris Bergmaneschikow, Constantine Orbelian conducts Mozart and Tchaikovsky; 8pm; Jun 7

• Orchestra of the Deutsche Oper Berlin: with pianist Bruno Leonardo Gelber, Jiri Belohlávek conducts Shostakovich's "Symphony No.1" and Brahms' "Concert for Piano and Orchestra No.2"; 8pm; Jun 8

• The English Concert Orchestra: Trevor Pinnock conducts Purcell in a concert that commemorates the 300th anniversary of the composer's death; 8pm; Jun 5

GALLERIES

Deutsche Historische Tel: (030) 215 020

• Pictures and References to German History: exhibition with more than 2000 paintings, coins, materials and other artifacts that document the history of Germany; to Dec 1 (Not Sun)

■ BILBAO

GALLERIES

Bilbao Arte Tel: (0171) 522 7888

• The Tradition of the New: masterpieces from the Guggenheim Collection 1945-1990. As a precursor to the opening of the Guggenheim Bilbao in 1997, this is an exhibition of nearly 50 paintings, sculptures and photographs from the permanent collection in New York. Artists include



"Cursos jugando al fútbol", from the Postwar Europe exhibition in Barcelona

de Kooning, Warhol and Lichtenstein; to Jul 15

■ BONN

GALLERIES

Kunst und Ausstellungshalle Tel: (0228) 9171 236

• Bernhard Heilig: tribute to the sculptor on his 80th birthday with a retrospective that includes sculptures, reliefs and drawings; to Oct 20 (Not Mon)

• Russian Museum of St Petersburg: third in 'The Great Collections' series. The museum in St Petersburg houses a collection of 500,000 works from which 500 have been selected for this exhibition to represent 500 years of Russian art and culture; to Aug 13 (Not Mon)

• Under the Volcano Antique

Masterpieces: second in the "Great Collections Series", this exhibition represents a modern "excavation" from among the 200,000 works of the Museo Arqueológico Nazionale di Napoli that includes statues, frescoes and ceramics; to Jun 5 (Not Mon)

■ FRANKFURT

OPERA/BALLET

Frankfurt Oper Tel: (069) 80 65 20

• Pine Bausch, "Cafe Müller" and "La Sacre du Printemps" choreographed by Bausch to the music of Purcell and Stravinsky; 8pm; Jun 4, 5

Oper Frankfurt Tel: (069) 23 60 61

• Lady Macbeth of Mzensk by Shostakovich. Conducted by Guido Johannes Rumstöd and produced by Werner Schröder. Soloists include Valeri Alexeiev, Ryszard Karczynski and Christine Cieplinski; 7.30pm; Jun 5

■ LONDON

CONCERTS

Barbican Tel: (0171) 638 8891

• Grand Classical Gala: David

Coleman conducts the National

Symphony Orchestra and tenor

Anthony Mee to play a selection of classical favourites; 7.30pm; Jun 4

• Royal Philharmonic Orchestra: with soprano Sylvia McNair and clarinettist Emma Johnson. Andrew Litton conducts Piston, Copland, Griffes, Barber and Gershwin; 7.30pm; Jun 7

• Sonny Rollins: jazz tenor

saxophonist and one of the last

survivors from a generation that

included Miles Davis and John

Coltrane; 7.30pm; Jun 3

Royal Festival Hall Tel: (0171) 928 8300

• Itzhak Perlman: violinist with the

Philharmonia Orchestra. Lawrence

Foster conducts Beethoven; 7.30pm; Jun 10

• Murray Perahia: pianist plays

Scarlatti, Handel, Beethoven,

Schumann and Chopin; 7.30pm; Jun 9

• Philharmonia Orchestra: with

soprano Alison Hagley,

mezzo-soprano Catherine Robbin and tenor John Mark Ainsley. John Eliot

Gardiner conducts Elgar's "Enigma

Variations" and Britten's "Spring

Symphony"; 7.30pm; Jun 4

• Royal Philharmonic Orchestra: with

violinist Maxim Vengerov. John Eliot

Gardiner conducts Egarr, Bruch and

Mendelssohn; 7.30pm; Jun 8

• Royal Philharmonic Orchestra: with

mezzo-soprano Olga Borodina,

baritone Sergel Alexashkin and the

Brighton Festival chorus. Sir

Gergiev conducts Berio's "Romeo

and Juliet"; 7.30pm; Jun 3

■ MADRID

GALLERIES

Fundación Colección

Thyssen-Bornemisza Tel: (91) 420 39 44

• André Derain: approximately 70

paintings selected to represent the

painter's different artistic periods;

to Jul 10

Reina Sofia Tel: (91) 468 30 02

• Brassai: exhibition of 150

photographs; from Jun 6 to Sep 25

• Pablo Palazuelo: retrospective of

the Spanish artist containing more

than 60 paintings; to Jul 10

• Salvador Dalí: the early years; to

Jun 18

• Yves Klein: retrospective with

140 works recently seen in London; to Aug 29

■ MUNICH

GALLERIES

Bayerische

Staatsgemäldesammlungen Tel:

(089) 23 80 50

• Hans Memling: Johannes and

Veronica; to Jun 11

Haus der Kunst

• The Splendour of the Farnese:

exhibition that brings together art

collected by the Farnese dynasty in

the Italian Renaissance with statues,

medals, coins and more than 130

paintings by the likes of Parmigianino,

Breughel, Sebastian del Piombo and

Titian; to Aug 27

• Itzhak Perlman: violinist with the

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mezzo-soprano

Peter Aspden

Time for war at the end of the over

John Major's reaction to the seizure of 33 of his soldiers appeared to have an awesome simplicity

It has long been a puzzle to me that Britain continues to play quite such a prominent role in diplomatic affairs.

Of course there is the legacy of its empire, a generally impressive record on liberal values over the past couple of hundred years, and the excellence of its performance in the second world war; all are worthy of the utmost respect from the international community and should ensure that the Vox Britannica is allowed the occasional warble on the world stage.

But Britain continues to enjoy the prestige of the most prima donna on almost every issue of global importance. And I think I know why. Last Sunday provided a perfect illustration of why the Brit-

ish view is accorded such respect by foreign leaders.

For it was last Sunday that the prime minister, John Major, heard that British troops had been taken hostage by Bosnian Serbs. And where was he when he received the dramatic news? At Lords, watching cricket.

And what did he do? He stayed at Lords for part of the afternoon, had some tea and then went back to Downing Street to meet ministers to decide on a course of action.

Now those who do not understand the British way might think this showed a certain lack of urgency or complacency on behalf of the PM: they might conclude that, even in the age of the mobile phone and the portable office,

cricket-and-tea provides a dubious backdrop against which to consider such weighty issues.

But they would be wrong. For it is only in the acceptance that Britain is no longer up to the requirements of gunboat diplomacy that the nuances of tea-trouley diplomacy can be fully appreciated.

Watching the cricket while one's soldiers are taken hostage sends a shuddering message to one's foes: do what you will, we will not panic, we will not act rashly.

There is little to be gained from posturing and preening; let us wait until the end of the over.

Call it phlegm, call it sang-froid, call it what you will, this is the single characteristic of the British

that is most admired internationally, and watching a game of cricket is its most potent expression. For cricket-spectating is not only capable of being bone-chillingly cold and mind-numbingly boring, it is also exquisitely arcane and introspective, speaking a private language that is guaranteed to send Johnny Foreigner into the most violent of mental tail-splits.

I was once sent by my first newspaper to a cricket ground to pose as a foreign tourist and ask a spectator to explain the rules of the game to me. I duly found an old boy in a deckchair and asked, in a wildly unconvincing accent: "Why he no run when hits ball far?" The man put down his binoculars, looked me in the eye and answered

brusquely that it was because the ball had crossed the boundary. And that was as helpful as he was going to get.

Now imagine, if you will, the Bosnian Serbs' intelligence officer, reporting to his leader, Radovan Karadžić, how the British prime minister had reacted to the seizure of 33 of his soldiers. He took tea at Lords. Does it not have an awesome, Zen-like simplicity, sure to intimidate the hardest of aggressors?

Well, perhaps not. For the truth is that the age of tea-trouley diplomacy may be coming to an end. As long as wars and battles were contained within certain sets of rules and conventions, there really was a regard for the calming effects of

a cool head on the other side of the line, an understanding that no one really wanted this damned war to continue and let's all get it over with as soon as we can.

But I am not so sure that the conflict in the former Yugoslavia, or in any other region where racial hatred is so deeply rooted, plays by those rules any more.

The hopelessness and helplessness etched on the faces of those who have tried to negotiate a peaceful solution to the war in Bosnia speak more eloquently than even Mr Major's commendably resolute demeanour. There are people out there who do not necessarily want wars to end, they just want to win them, brutally and finally.

Information typically came in booklets such as that entitled "Jugoslavia" published by the British Military Mission. It gets off to a bad start, the first words proclaim that the country is only a little larger than England and Wales. In fact it is (or was) bigger than the whole of the UK.

Then there is a paragraph which runs: "Bosnia is the central province of Jugoslavia and has high mountains with green valleys of pasture land between. The soil is fairly fertile, and maize is the staple crop. All kinds of fruit, especially plums (which are used for making the potent plum brandy, Sljivočica), are abundant... Hercegovina is often considered jointly with Bosnia, and lies to the west of Montenegro. It has a hard, stony soil in which a little tobacco is grown."

When dealing with the peoples of Yugoslavia the booklet draws on the same old guidebook: "To this day there is a large Moslem population in Bosnia whose manners and customs are quite their own."

The Croats, meanwhile, had to wait

until the last century to find the leaders "who could express their desire for a federal south Slav state with their brother Serbs and Slovaks".

The south Slavs are, in the eyes

As They Say in Europe

Bosnia made simple

The developments in Bosnia this week make one wonder, again, about the roots of the tragedy and the inability of outsiders to master the situation. So I looked at the papers of my father-in-law, Kenneth.

He was a member of the Special Operations Executive, or British "secret army", and served in Yugoslavia from 1943 onwards. These papers remind one how little was known of this land when he par-

chuted into Montenegro to work with Tito's partisans.

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The south Slavs are, in the eyes

'I am not a German' and
'Is this your horse?' are
essential
phrases

of the British military establishment, a picturesque collection of peoples - "first class dramatic artists" much given to singing, dancing and feasting.

The brief Serbo-Croat vocabulary

was more helpful, providing a reliable guide to the problems the British officer might have faced - "I am not a German" and "Is this your horse?" are obviously essential phrases. The booklet ends with a social commentary. The partisans, it says, are not smartly dressed and "in many respects their methods differ from ours. They cannot afford, for instance, to treat enemy prisoners with the same consideration as we do."

Fraternization is a difficult topic for the euphemists who compiled this document: "Any attempt to be on more friendly terms with a partisan girl than with a partisan man may lead to all kinds of complications."

It was that my father-in-law found life among the Montenegrins, Serbs and, later, the Slovenes somewhat disconcerting. When he took supplies of dehydrated potato to starving partisans they assumed this unattractive concoction was a poison. The partisans must have found their allies equally exotic. For among them were to be found Evelyn Waugh and Randolph Churchill, son of Winston.

Waugh was deeply concerned with the problems of securing adequate supplies of toilet soap. When a consignment finally arrived it was stolen by the partisans, which led to recriminations among the British.

Others would say they believe in God; they just don't believe in clapping and singing and falling over.

"You don't have to clap and sing."

It seems to help.

"It's a by-product of joy, and temporary expression," said the Reverend Sandy Millar, and smiled.

Many of those who fought in that campaign came away fearing that the dangers of being a friend of the Yugoslavs were little different from those faced by an enemy. Yet they often had a passionate regard for the ethnic group with which they had most closely associated.

One looks through histories, academic studies and contemporary accounts to find useful insights into the apparently explosive situation that must have existed in Bosnia in particular. Rebecca West gets near it in *Black Lamb and Grey Falcon* - published in 1942 - but she simplistically blames the Austrians, who had ruled the province until 1918, for the divisions in Bosnian society. Nobody else seems to be even aware of their existence.

Outside ignorance has undoubtedly made its contribution to what has gone wrong. One wonders too if that has included an element of the "Ruritanian gypsy" attitude that marked the analysis of the British Military Mission. And maybe the Serbs have been reading Evelyn Waugh as well.

James Morgan

■ James Morgan is economics correspondent of the BBC World Service

Private View / Christian Tyler

The vicar with a flock in a frenzy

The Rev Sandy Millar explains the strange happenings at his church

Tomorrow is the feast of Pentecost, the day when the disciples of Jesus Christ "spoke in tongues". When the Holy Spirit descends on London's fashionable Knightsbridge, however, the outcome is a not-so-genteel bedlam.

Voyeurs may be tempted to switch on their televisions tomorrow morning in the hope of witnessing the weird happenings which have made Holy Trinity, Brompton, the most notorious Anglican church in Britain. Unless something goes wrong, they are likely to be disappointed.

For the BBC has decided to turn off its cameras before the Rev Sandy Millar, the church's Old Etonian vicar, invokes the famous "Toronto blessing" which for the past 12 months has left members of his congregation, men and women alike, writhing and gibbering at the foot of the altar.

The Rev Millar's parishioners may be speaking in tongues; but if so, they are tongues intelligible to no one.

At a typical recent service, most members of the congregation were in their twenties or early thirties. Despite the address there were few Hermès scarves in evidence. The church, stripped of its pews and with its vault painted dark salmon pink, was packed. There was a good deal of smiling from bright-eyed regulars. A three-piece band occupied the stage.

Proceedings began with impromptu prayers led by "Nicky" Gumbel, one of Millar's curates; he stood at the microphone with one thumb hooked nonchalantly into his jeans. Next, a young woman talked movingly about her work with street children in Brazil.

The band played hymns - banal tunes with simple-minded words which could be read off closed circuit TV screens slung from the pillars. One or two enthusiasts began jiggling; others raised their arms in prayer-salutes uncomfortably reminiscent of Nuremberg.

Millar, dressed in mufti, gave a long, sober and sophisticated sermon on the power of intercession. Only his emphasis on the "groaning" and "sighing" of early Christian prayer gave a clue to what was to follow.

The service appeared to end and some of the congregation slipped out. Millar remained on-stage, invoking the Holy Spirit and inviting people to come forward. First, there was a gentle mewling, as of babies, from the gallery. Then came cries of women as if in labour. The girls who had gone forward stumbled one after another to the floor where they lay moaning or silent.

As for the men, they sat and sobbed or worked themselves into a frenzy of shaking, all the while groaning, shouting or laughing hysterically. This chap got in whom I knew vaguely," Millar recalled. "It was very crowded and I was standing, not very close to him. He looked across at me with a great grin and said: 'Do you realise that Jesus Christ is alive?'"

Just like that.



The Rev Sandy Millar, with his terrier Ricky

Trevor Marshall

bering were most grotesque. Eventually they, too, were pacified.

Who is responsible for these manifestations? Is it the Rev Millar and his crew, the gibbering brethren themselves, God - or the Devil?

Millar admits that one or two exhibitionists have penetrated his flock but insists that for the majority these fits are controlled, harmless, God-sent and "refreshing". The outgoing Bishop of London and the Archbishop of Canterbury, who has preached at Holy Trinity, appear to agree. Other clergy are shocked.

Millar is a born-again Christian, a Cambridge-educated criminal barrister whose re-birth followed a chance meeting on the London Underground between St James's Park and the Temple.

"This chap got in whom I knew vaguely," Millar recalled. "It was very crowded and I was standing, not very close to him. He looked across at me with a great grin and said: 'Do you realise that Jesus Christ is alive?'"

Just like that.

Just like that. And I was embarrassed by the question, actually, I thought it was insensitive - but I'm grateful retrospectively.

"I thought if I answered confidently enough that would end the conversation. So I said: 'Yes, yes, I do.' Back he came - the train was stopped between stations - quick as a flash. 'Does that make any difference to your life?'"

So you told him to mind his own business?

"No, I couldn't. I was horrified by the whole thing. Up and down the train they were all peering at me. I thought they were all entirely on my side but they weren't going to help."

"I began to blush, which I hadn't done for years. I got hot, so I mustered what courage I could and said: 'Yuh yes, it does.'"

Emerging into the daylight, Millar was worried first, because he could not think of any difference Christ had made to his life, and second because he had said Yes when he meant No. Between cases at the Crown Court he started to

read the New Testament. A more potent influence was Antette, Millar's future wife and mother of their four children, who had invited him to a bible-and-temple weekend in Stoke Poges.

She had converted to Christianity in her first term at St Andrews University and 10 years later was "prayed for by a wonderful man to be filled with the spirit. And she took off. There is no other way of describing it. As a result she got the boldness and the energy to organise this weekend."

Did you feel euphoria?

"By taking off I mean... Well, I sent a postcard to everybody."

Millar said there had been no great crisis in his life. "I had a wonderful job which I loved, and I went away most weeks. I think I was struck by the impressiveness of the objective truth of the Resurrection."

His was not a sudden conversion, like St Paul's, but a gradual one like St Augustine's. "I think any serious attempt to get to grips with the

Christian faith will lead to conversion," Millar said.

I asked if there were not suspicious similarities between born-again Christians and victims of cults such as the Moonies.

"It's a fair enough question," Millar said. "That's why I invite intellectual thought to the process. It wouldn't take me a moment to see that the claims of Mr Moon and the claims of Jesus Christ are radically different."

Do you feel euphoria?

"Joy, I think, yes, absolutely."

"Yes, I did and I still do. Because the joy is simply a by-product of a relationship with a personal God."

Was there much clapping or joy in your youth?

"Not at all."

Millar grew up in a Presbyterian family on a 1,000-acre estate near Elgin in north-east Scotland. His father was a major-general in the Royal Engineers.

I asked whether his background and his Eton education had been

advice of the old sailors: keep out to sea until it does.

Mark Litchfield, the 54-year-old skipper of the *Maria Asumpta*, quoted in *The Times* as saying he could misjudge the distance from a headland. But this is exactly what skippers are trained not to do. Even a novice can use electronic position finders which have become extraordinarily reliable. When people's lives are at stake it is irresponsible for a skipper not to use one.

But the old methods can also be accurate: you measure compass bearings and sextant angles of lighthouses, churches and prominent rocks and draw lines on your chart. Where the lines cross is where you are. If the result does not make sense, you follow the

advice of the old sailors: keep out to sea until it does. That is why examiners for the Royal Yachting Association's Yachtmaster qualification often switch off the engine just as the candidate is getting into a tight spot.

Even when a skipper believes he can extricate his ship from danger, he has the option of making a pre-cautionary radio call to the coastguard under the "PAN PAN" procedure. An early call can save lives, if not the vessel.

We shall have to wait for a full inquiry to discover how a skipper as experienced as Litchfield got into this difficulty, whether he did all that was possible when they got close to the shore and what lessons should be drawn from the disaster.

Yet even when we know more details, the wreck of the *Maria Asumpta* and the failure of its captain may remain one of those strange mysteries of the sea.

Lives dashed on the rocks

Max Wilkinson examines the mystery behind the wreck of a venerable sailing brig

On a fine summer evening, 25 years ago, the skipper of a square-rigged sail training ship was showing me a wonderful new machine, a Decca navigator system recently installed at enormous cost.

Weekend Investor

Wall Street

Tricky summer lies ahead for the Fed

Planners must ensure the economy stays cool but not cold, writes Maggie Urry

Monday was Memorial Day in the US, the holiday which marks the start of summer, when swimming pools are filled and shorts come out of the closet. With Wall Street closed for the day, investors could go out to enjoy the rising temperatures, which ended with spectacular thunderstorms, or chill themselves in the icy blast from their air-conditioners.

As they did so, they might have pondered on the progress of the US economy. In the early months of this year, they had only one fear: that the economy's humid growth could lead to the thunderstorms of inflation.

As it became apparent the Federal Reserve was succeeding in lowering the temperature using interest rates, both the bond and share markets rose.

As the chart shows, the two markets moved in tandem until mid-March. Then, stocks accelerated ahead of bonds as the fixed-income market paid more attention to the declining dollar. Since the start of May, though, bonds have been the better bet.

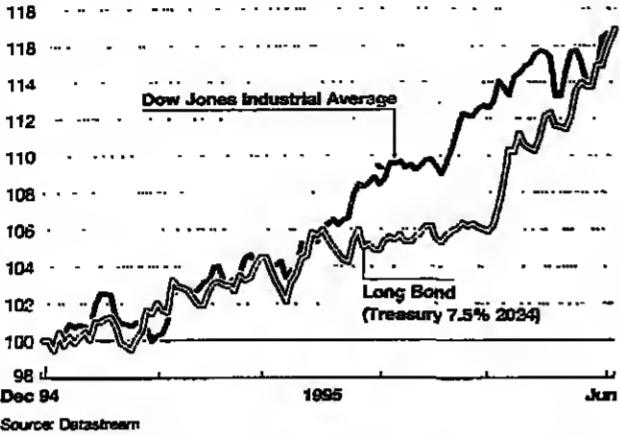
While neither bonds nor stocks thrive in the beat of an over-active economy, bonds are more tolerant than shares to a cold climate. Shares do best in the warm conditions of the so-called soft landing, which combines moderate growth with low inflation. That allows companies to keep expanding and increasing their dividends without inflation erasing the improvement.

A hard landing, otherwise called recession, is bad news for the corporate sector as profits could fall. But it is not so bad for bonds, since recession usually brings low inflation and low interest rates which make the fixed return from a bond more attractive. So, when the economy seemed to be heading for a soft landing, both the bond and share markets cheered every sign of the slowdown. Unemployment up, buoyant; durable goods orders down, terrific; manufacturers' inventories rising, wonderful.

Now, those same statistics are causing the equity market to worry while the bond market continues to cheer. On Tuesday, it raced higher, with the yield on the 30-year bond dropping from 6.75 to 6.66 per cent in the day. Shares lagged behind. On Wednesday, though, the Dow Jones indus-

Stocks and bonds

Robbed



Source: Datastream

trial average had one of its 80-point up days spurred by a revision to the first quarter gdp figures.

Ironically, when the provisional gdp statistics were published at the end of April, the equity market was upset that the figure for inventories (or stocks, as they are called in the UK) was lower than forecast. A rise in stocks means that manufacturers cannot sell all their production, suggesting that demand is weak.

At that time, the share market wanted to see production slow down as it hankered for evidence of a weakening economy. But the market's change of heart in the month since the provisional gdp figures were published has been such that now it demands signs that the economy is stronger than it fears. A downward revision in the stocks figure indicated just that and contributed to Wednesday's gain.

The bond market was hesitant on Wednesday but had its turn on Thursday and again yesterday. Thursday's "good" news for bonds was from the National Association of Purchasing Management. Its index of manufacturing activity slumped from April's 52 per cent to only 46.1 per cent in May. Anything under 50 per cent means the manufacturing economy is contracting. Bad news for shares, although the Dow Jones managed to struggle to another high.

But the thrill of the week for the bond market came in yesterday's employment figures, which showed a decline in non-farm jobs of 101,000 in May. Many had hoped that April's fall in job numbers of 7,000 (revised from a 9,000 drop), was

a freak statistic. So, a fall of this magnitude in May was bad news for the equity market. Shares opened sharply lower yesterday after the figures were published.

The jobs figures convinced the bond market that the Fed would have to cut interest rates to prevent the economy tipping into recession. But the market had started to think this way in any case, and the yield on short-dated Treasury securities has been below the 6 per cent Federal funds target for 10 days.

By yesterday, though, yields on bonds with lives up to 10 years fell below 6 per cent. Further, the yield on the 30-year long bond dropped beneath 6.5 per cent and is almost back to where it was the day before the Federal Reserve first lifted its target rate in February last year from the low of 3 per cent.

Bond market analysts point to 1989 for comparison. Then, yields on two-year notes fell below the Fed funds rate in April, two months before it began to cut interest rates in June. But then the Fed was slow to ease monetary policy, and the economy went into recession in mid-1990.

The Fed is now in a tricky position. It must keep the temperature low enough to stop the economy from growing too strongly. But it cannot let a freeze set in. It looks like being a long, hot, not hot, summer.

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Monday market closed Tuesday 4,378.68 +9.68 Wednesday 4,465.14 +86.46 Thursday 4,472.75 +7.61 Friday

Source: FT Graphite

If a tyro asks you how to understand the UK stock market, your answer should be simple: "Look west, young man." Once again this week, the London market proved to be a Trifly under the influence of Wall Street's Svengali. Wednesday's 86-point rise in the Dow Jones industrial average helped the FT-SE 100 index reach a new 1995 high on Thursday.

Then, yesterday, the very weak US employment numbers caused an initial plunge in the Dow, sending the London market briefly lower. At the close, however, the Footsie was up a further 4.4 points at 3,045, for yet another 1995 high.

If one could ignore Wall Street's volatility, things would appear to be going rather well for London. The next obvious test for the Footsie is whether it can surmount its all-time high of 3,520.3, reached in February 1994, two days before the Federal Reserve started to raise interest rates.

Optimism that US interest

rates have peaked has helped to fuel this year's rally in the London market, and in most other stock markets round the world.

The 1993 stock and bond market rally was due partly to the outflow of US capital in the face of very low interest rates. Everything changed in 1994, but investors seem to be hoping for a repeat of 1993's conditions.

A US recession, however, would have negative implications for corporate earnings of the many UK companies with a North American exposure. So far, the interest rate factor seems to have outweighed the earnings fear, but Wall Street's volatility indicates that things could change quickly.

The outlook for UK interest rates remains uncertain. Kenneth Clarke, the chancellor of the exchequer, who decided against a rate rise last month, had further evidence to support his view this week: the

purchasing managers' index was at its lowest level for 18 months in May, while new orders actually fell.

Nevertheless, the Bank of England's recent inflation report said that the government was unlikely, on present monetary policy, to meet its inflation target of between 1 and 2.5 per cent by the end of this parliament. In the circumstances, it is hard to see how Eddie George, the Bank governor, can do other than argue for a further rate increase when he meets the chancellor on Wednesday. The markets evidently expect Clarke to win the day: short sterling futures, London's vehicle for speculating on interest rates changes, indicates there will be no rate rise by September.

The gilt market has been remarkably calm in the face of the apparent disagreement between George and Clarke. This week, the 10-year gilt reached its lowest yield of the year. Again, the key has been the US, where the 30-year Treasury bond yield managed to fall below 6.5 per cent yesterday after the release of the US employment data.

Sterling had been remarkably steady since the surprise decision not to increase rates last month. The trade-weighted index, having been 85.1 at the start of May, had fallen only as far as 84.8 by the start of trading yesterday. But the pound was another casualty of yesterday's US employment numbers. The dollar fell on expectations of lower US interest rates and sterling, which is under the US currency's spell, declined with it.

The technical indicators for the UK market are mainly positive. The FT-SE 100 index and the FT-SE 250 index all reached new highs on Thursday. A broadly-based rally is normally thought to be more robust than a narrow surge based purely on the Footsie.

But all the signals are not quite flashing green from this point of view: the number of stocks reaching new highs on Thursday was 336, well below the 485 achieved early in May. Ideally, new highs should reach a peak when the Footsie does.

The Coppock indicator, which gave a buy signal for the Footsie at the end of April, has continued to rise. It is not designed to produce a sell signal, so it should not give a useful indicator for some months (or even years). So far, however, the buy signal, which occurred when Footsie was at 3,167.5, has been right on the money.

The corporate sector remains relatively robust. Among the best performing Footsie stocks

of the week was Siebe, the diversified engineering group, which announced a 27 per cent increase in annual pre-tax profits and made an encouraging statement about its prospects.

BET, the business services group, also gave its share price a lift with a 33 per cent pre-tax profits rise and the purchase of Style, a provider of conference and training centres.

In contrast, results from Boots appeared to disappoint the market, with analysts downgrading their present year forecasts by around £2m and traders expressing disappointment that there was no immediate share buy-back.

The corporate sector's confidence is often reflected in its dividend announcements. The four-week average of the dividend index, calculated by subtracting reduced payments from increases and expressing the result as a percentage of the total, slipped to 61.5 per cent this week but is still around the middle of its range for the year.

On the bid front, British Aerospace returned with a repeat of its previous offer for VSEL, the submarine maker - 3.3 shares, or £16 in cash, for each VSEL share. BAE's rival, GEC, has yet to announce its attitude; it has until June 13 to submit a counter-bid.

Perhaps a spate of corporate takeovers - much forecast at the start of 1995 - will enable the UK market to escape from the influence of the US in the next few weeks. And the rumour mill was certainly throwing out bid candidates - including the merchant bank Kleinwort Benson and pharmaceutical group Zeneca - late this week.

Always cut costs, always

Japan starts to cut costs

Japan's economy

Japan's economy